

lead

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Bypass surgery
Battle of the
Okehampton
relief road
Modern manners
Sex and the
British in
the 1980s
Sky high
Miles Kingston sees
profitable gain
in Halley's Comet
Wembley crunch
England hold the
key to Irish
World Cup hopes

Portfolio

The £2,000 Times Portfolio
competition prize was won
yesterday by Mrs B. Sharit,
London. Portfolio list, page 28;
how to play, Information
Service, back page.
On Saturday, £22,000 can be
won - £20,000 in the weekly
competition and £2,000 in the
daily.

Teachers
talks end
in chaos

Talks aimed at settling the nine-
month old teachers' pay dispute
broke up in squabbling chaos
after seven hours as a result of
in-fighting between the unions.
Industrial action is now likely
to continue until Christmas.

Kinnock warning

Mr Neil Kinnock is to advise
Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour
MP for Knowsley North, to
resign. The publicly
surrounding his efforts to ward off
a Militant Tendency attempt to
remove him.

UN's top Briton

Mr Mervyn Gunning, aged 49,
former British Ambassador to
Angola, is to succeed fellow
Briton Mr Brian Urquhart, who
retires in January, as UN
Under-Secretary General for
Special Political Affairs.

System X blow

The British developed System
X is likely to be rejected on
technical grounds when Hong
Kong decides to modernize its
fast-growing network.

Crash puzzle

The pilots of two small planes
which collided and then crashed
into New York suburban
apartment buildings were aware
of each other, a federal aviation
spokesman said.

Rebel terror

Rebels in Matabeleland killed
four officials of Mr Robert
Mugabe's Zanu-PF party,
Zimbabwe police said.

Jobs in danger

The fate of 12,000 employees at
Lucas Industries' car-making
electrical division is to be
decided within the next few
months.

Rugby sponsors

The Rugby Football Union are
to enter into a series of deals
with sponsors that could raise
£1 million a season.

SPECIAL REPORT

Tiny Qatar, whose Emir arrives
in London today, is optimistic
about its future despite the
falling demand for oil.

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Julian Amery MP, and others;
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Priestland
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the Bar; Miss Bhutto's dilemma
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In defence of juries: the other
star wars; British cinema on the
move; Spectrum: astronomical
research; Fashion: ancestral chic
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Thatcher predicts
lower inflation
in era of renewal

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday
boasted of the Government's
"colossal programme of public
expenditure", and said that the
Chancellor of the Exchequer's
economic statement today
would "forshadow further high
investment in buildings, plant
and machinery."

At the Lord Mayor of
London's banquet in Guildhall,
Mrs Margaret Thatcher spoke
of a process of renewal which,
she said, was spreading through-
out the country.

For once in an important
speech she said nothing about
public expenditure restraint or
of the importance of leaving
room for private sector invest-
ment, which she also praised.

She spoke confidently about
the economy. Mr Nigel Law-
son's statement would "confirm
the prospect for lower inflation
and for continued growth of
output," she said. We were now
in our fifth successive year of
growth, and she looked forward
to a sixth.

Mrs Thatcher spoke also
about crime, saying that in a
democracy nothing justified a
resort to violence. She appeared
anxious to establish that, where
public expenditure could help,
she and her ministers were
providing the means.

There are areas of real
deprivation in our great cities.
Where money can help we are
spending on housing and
reclaiming derelict land; we are
supporting local enterprise; we
are helping employment

through these special measures;
we are doing more to train
young people.

The Guildhall speech by
tradition deals with foreign
affairs and Mrs Thatcher's third
theme was East-West relations.

Mrs Margaret Tebbitt, who
was badly injured in the
Brighton bombing, was
applauded warmly when she
arrived at the Lord Mayor's
banquet last night.

Mrs Tebbitt, who was exten-
sively paralysed in the blast,
was making her first big public
appearance since attending
Wimbledon in June. She
smiled from her wheelchair,
pushed by Mr Norman Tebbitt,
her husband, and scores of
guests rose to their feet as she
came in to meet the new Lord
Mayor, Alderman Sir Allan
Davis.

She warned the Lord Mayor
and the assembled company not
to have unrealistic expectations
about the forthcoming summit
meeting between President
Reagan and Mr Gorbachev.
The West needed to be con-
vinced by Soviet actions be-
hind their own boundaries, she
said.

The Prime Minister, follow-
ing a more recent tradition,
refused to predict any im-
provement in the employment
picture. Instead, she said that
City forecasters were predicting
a continued growth in new jobs.
This was what the Government
wanted most of all.

As for public investment,
Mrs Thatcher said: "You have
only to travel to see it - 180
miles of new trunk roads being
built; railways being electrified;
tube stations vastly improved;
new power stations; £900m next
year to improve the water
supply; hospitals - 51 major
projects under construction."

"This is a colossal pro-
gramme, and that is just the
public sector, but it has been
outpaced, and rightly so, by the
sheer weight of investment in
the private sector, in factories,
in shops, in offices, in telecom-
munications, in new homes,
and much more besides."

The single most exciting
prospect was the Channel fixed
link, she said.

But Mr Roy Hattersley,
deputy leader of the Labour
Party, was disparaging about
the speech before the banquet
had begun. He said: "The lady
protests too much. She clearly
fears that the economic chi-
ckens are coming home to
roost, and therefore makes
preposterous claims in the hope
that someone will believe her."

"She boasts about economic
growth. Under the six years of
this government the economy
has grown by just 1.3 per cent
per year, the worst record in
modern history."

Mrs Thatcher said the fabric
of society was always under
challenge. People were entitled
to look to a Government for
defence against those who had

Continued on back page, col 2



Warm applause for a smiling Mrs Tebbitt as she arrives in a wheelchair for the Lord Mayor's banquet with her husband. Photograph John Voos

Gurkhas to
lose half
their six
battalions

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

The Gurkhas, whose out-
standing record of bravery
during 170 years of service to
the Crown has elevated them
into army folk heroes, look set
to be halved in strength.

One of their six battalions is
being disbanded in 1987, but
defence ministers now believe
two more will have to go when
Hong Kong is handed back to
China in 1997.

There are 8,200 Gurkhas
serving in the British army and
four of the six battalions are
based in Hong Kong. One is
based in Britain, near Alder-
shot, and the other is contrac-
ted to the Sultan of Brunei.

While a final decision on
their future is still to be made,
ministers believe that many of
the Gurkhas serving in the Far
East will be surplus to require-
ments after the transfer of
Hong Kong, and the Ministry
of Defence cannot afford to
keep them.

It is said the only alternative
to a large-scale reduction in
Gurkha numbers is to lay off
British-born troops or persuade
the Sultan of Brunei to pay for
another battalion.

A high-level team of defence
officials visited Nepal, home of
the Gurkhas, for talks about
their future. Thousands of
families are dependent on army
pensions and wages and the
Gurkhas provide the third
largest source of foreign income
for the Himalayan kingdom.

Last night the Ministry of
Defence would only say: "The
final size and shape of the
Gurkhas will turn on opera-
tions and resource factors
facing the entire British army
at the time (1997). It is too
early to foresee at this stage."

But Mr Dennis Davies,
Labour's chief defence spokes-
man, said Britain had an
obligation to the Gurkhas "and
on this occasion we must pay
our debts."

"It is pretty disgusting that,
again, we should put money in
front of honour. Mr Heseltine
should find the money."

The Gurkhas, whose motto
is "Better to die than to live a
coward", had 450,000 men
fighting in the British army
during the two world wars.
Nearly 45,000 were killed.

Head censured over
Land's End deaths

From Rupert Morris, Aylesbury

The headmaster in charge of
the four schoolboys swept to
their deaths off Land's End in
May failed to plan the trip
adequately, failed to organize
sufficient supervision and failed
to act when he saw the children
in danger, according to a report
published yesterday by
Buckinghamshire County
Council.

The report, by Mr Charles
Garrett, the county's chief
education officer, is a severe
indictment of the "misjudge-
ment" of Mr Alex Askew, aged
61, who has since resigned as
headmaster of Stoke Poges
Middle School, and to a lesser
extent of another teacher
present, Mr Robin Harrington,
aged 35, who announced yester-
day that he was leaving teaching
to run a public house.

Mr Askew, who has largely
admitted his responsibility,
would have been the subject of
disciplinary proceedings if he
had not resigned. Mr Garrett
said. He confirmed that Mr
Askew was being paid a pension
equivalent to half his salary.

The parents of the four boys
are pursuing a compensation
claim after the council's ad-
mission that Mr Askew had sent
the parents an inaccurate and
misleading letter suggesting
that the £90 cost of the trip
included insurance cover.

Mr Askew was blamed in the
report for holding only a few

minutes' discussion with other
supervising adults before the
party of 31 children left for
Cornwall, and not allocating
responsibility; failing to orga-
nize supervision on the day of
the trip; and failing to act when
he saw the group of children on

Details, page 2

the rocks. He should have
shouted and waved them away,
the report said.

Mr Harrington is to face
disciplinary action for "failure
to assess on the cliff-top whether
it was safe for the children to
disperse as they did, failure to
disclose a fear of heights which
could have affected supervision
of the visit, and failure to carry
a list of names of all members
of the party."

Mr Harrington said last
night: "I've just had enough of
teaching. If I was desperate to
stay in teaching I would fight
this all the way."

He rejected criticism for not
carrying a list of names of
children on the trip.

"Having a list would not
have prevented anything hap-
pening. I took a head count and
did everything possible at the
time. All I can do is to look
back to that time and I feel we
did everything we should have
done. Unfortunately events
took a very bad turn."

Directors
oust
Beecham
chairman

By Cliff Feltham

Sir Ronald Heald, chair-
man of the Beecham Group,
was ousted in a boardroom
coup yesterday as the company
announced disappointing pro-
fits. A stunned City immedi-
ately wiped £280 million off the
value of its shares, which
tumbled 33p to 293p.

Sir Ronald, who was also
chief executive, will probably
receive nearly £600,000 in
compensation for the loss of the
two posts which he has held
only since July.

Sir Ronald had worked for
Beecham for more than 30
years. He had three years of his
£187,000-a-year contract still to
run.

Sir Ronald's sudden resig-
nation came after some grum-
bling in the City about the
group's recent performance. But
the pressure to see him go
finally came from Beecham's
three non-executive directors.

The most senior, Lord Keith
of Castleacre, the merchant
banker, who takes over as
chairman until a successor is
found, said the company
needed "a younger and more
dynamic management and this
dynamicism should start at the
top".

In a public admission of
failure rare for the City, Lord
Keith said that Beecham had
grown complacent and failed to
seize opportunities. "When
things went against us we
blamed external circumstances
such as bad luck."

Lord Keith said Beecham had
not come out of the past three
years with a great deal of credit
and shareholders were entitled
to better results.

Sir Ronald's service contract
would need to be discussed with
legal advisers. "It is a contract
and when it is severed there is a
price and that has to be
negotiated", Lord Keith added.
Beecham brought forward the
announcement of its half-year
results. These showed pre-tax
profits slightly ahead at £148.8
million, indicating an almost
unchanged total for the year of
about £306 million.

Sir Ronald, aged 59, joined
Beecham as a chemist in 1954
and was recognized as a
dedicated company man with
immense energy which he
attributed to "a glass of
Lucozade a day".

The chief executive's job at
Beecham is being filled by Mr
John Robb, aged 49.

Lloyd's chief resigns

Mr Ian Hay Davison, the
£120,000-a-year chief executive
and deputy chairman of Lloyd's
insurance market, has resigned
with effect from May 11 next
year.

The surprise announcement
came as a result of an initiative
by the ruling council of Lloyd's
to change the terms of reference
and status of the chief execu-
tive's post.

Kenneth Fleet, page 23
Tempus, page 25

M4 rape:
man in
car park
arrested

By Gregory Neale

A man arrested by armed
police officers in Croydon,
south-east London, yesterday
was being questioned last night
about the killing of a woman
and the rape of three others.

The man was arrested in the
car park of the Fairfield Halls
entertainment complex shortly
after 3pm. He was taken to
Croydon police station, barely a
hundred yards away, for ques-
tioning by detectives on Oper-
ation Joinder, who were investi-
gating several crimes.

The first was the rape of a
woman aged 19 at Banstead,
Surrey, by a driver of a white
Audi car. Three days later, a
woman aged 19 was attacked by
a man with a knife who raped
her in a car on the A24 at
Ashford, Surrey.

On November 2, a woman
aged 40 was abducted from her
car by a driver on the M4 near
Chippingham, Wiltshire. She
was handcuffed, driven to
London and raped at knifepoint
behind a public house.

Ten days later, Miss Jacque-
line Murray, aged 22, a
prostitute, was shot dead after
she and another prostitute were
picked up in Park Lane, central
London.

Yesterday's arrest was wit-
nessed by Mrs Janice Lin-
gwood, Mrs Lingwood, aged 40,
who is studying social work at
Croydon College, had driven
onto the seventh floor of the car
park when she saw a man enter
by a side door.

"Two men suddenly ap-
peared from my sight carrying
hand-guns. They came forward
and shouted at the man, telling
him to lay down", she said last
night.

"They had him on the floor,
with the guns to either side of
his head."

An inquest into the death of
Miss Murray was opened at
Westminster Coroner's Court
yesterday and adjourned pro-
visionally until December 9.

Sedgemore barred
for Lawson slur

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Brian Sedgemore, the
Labour MP who last Friday
accused the Chancellor of the
Exchequer of perverting the
course of justice over the
Johnson "Matthey Bankers"
affair was yesterday barred from
the House of Commons for five
days after he refused a request
from the Speaker to withdraw
his slur on the honour of Mr
Nigel Lawson.

The MP, a barrister, left the
precincts of the Palace of
Westminster and immediately
repeated his allegation to
journalists. He said last night:
"I have got permanent qualified
privilege in commenting on
matters of public importance.
He could issue a writ, but he
would be laughed out of court;
it would not be taken seriously."

Mr Sedgemore bases his
allegation on a written Com-
mon reply in which Mr Lawson
endorsed categorical denials of
the MP's parliamentary sugges-
tion that members of the Bank
of England may have conspired
to utter forged documents and
to defraud the liquidator of

companies in Mr Mahmud
Sipra's El Saeed Group.

Mr Lawson had then added:
"I hope that, in the light of the
very full replies which he has
received the honourable Mem-
ber will withdraw his allega-
tions."

Mr Sedgemore said last night
that he would not withdraw his
allegation. "You can't withdraw
the truth, can you?"

The Speaker's ruling followed
a complaint by Mr Douglas
Hogg, Conservative MP for
Grantham, and a weekend letter
to Mr Sedgemore, copied to the
Speaker in which Mr Lawson
said: "I take the greatest
possible exception to this
allegation... what you have
falsely accused me of is prob-
ably the most serious form
of dishonourable conduct
imaginable." He demanded "an
immediate parliamentary with-
drawal."

Mr Hogg said last night:
"This is no evidence against the
Chancellor and Mr Sedgemore
never even tried to substantiate
the allegation in the House."

Uncollected taxes
rise to £2.5 bn

By Our Political Correspondent

The amount of uncollected
tax rose to a record £2,532milion
last year and Sir Gordon
Downey, the Comptroller and
Auditor General, said that
"taxpayer resistance" had helped
to boost the Inland
Revenue's outstanding balances.

He also said, in a report on
Whitehall's Appropriation
Accounts, that the charges
outstanding from employers for
PAYE and from contractors
paying tax for sub-contractors,
£622 million last year, were
"approximately twice as high as
might reasonably have been
expected"; and that the amount
of tax written off due to
insolvency had increased by
almost 50 per cent to nearly
£125million.

The uncollected tax balance
outstanding at the end of
October last year, excluding
PAYE and companies' un-
assessed payments, was 15.6 per
cent of the net amount due for
the year, £2,532million of
£16,217million due.

That compared with 13.9 per
cent for 1983, £2,052million
uncollected out of a net
£14,689million due. Between
1983 and 1984 there was an
increase of almost a quarter,
£480million, in uncollected
taxes.

Sir Gordon said yesterday
that the Inland Revenue had
put the "further deterioration"
down to reorganization, the
effects of a staff reduction; and
continued taxpayer resistance
to prompt payment.

Well-balanced Rolls Royce greets Royal visitors

From Christopher Thomas Washington

They broke a lot of cups
doing it, but the people at J.C.
Penney's store in suburban
Washington finally balanced a
Rolls Royce on top of a display
of Wedgwood China in the
excessive anglophobia in honour
of the royal visit yesterday.

The Prince and Princess of
Wales arrived in a silver Rolls
Royce, cheered by 3,000 people
pressed against security bar-
riers in the autumn sunshine,
most clutching large "Best of
Britain" balloons. Thus began
the couple's third and final day
in Washington.

All 500 J.C. Penney stores
nationwide are pushing a \$50
million line of British merchan-
dise, although at the time the
campaign was conceived there
was not even a hint that the
royal couple would be coming.
Their visit, a massive stroke of
luck has helped clinch J.C.

Penney's growing reputation as
one of the posh upper middle
class suburban giants.

The Prince and Princess saw
mostly clothes in their brief
tour of the Penney branch in
Springfield Mall, Virginia, but
of course bought nothing.

Prince Charles opined
tongue-in-cheek during a British
Embassy gala dinner on Sun-
day night that thousands of
people were flocking to see his
new clothes. His wife was still
stunning people. She wore a
cream-coloured gown with lace
bodice and taffeta skirt,
together with a diamond and
pearl tiara once worn by
Queen Mary.

At the store, six words from
the Princess threatened to start
a fashion revolution in America
when she asked, casually:
"Don't you have double-
breasted suits?"

replied that he would be
changing into one tomorrow.
He explained later: "I think
she has just started a new
fashion in this country for
double-breasted suits" and
added that there was a great
respect in the US for the
princess's views on fashion.

The "Best of Britain" wel-
come at the store included a
number of hiccups, however -
the Union Jack which greeted
them was upside down, the
"Welsh Guards" on the door
turned out to be American
policemen in bearkin costumes
and many of the goods on sale
in the promotion had labels
reading "made in Korea".

After touring the store the
couple shook hands with people
in the crowd across the security
barriers. Even the policemen
were taking snapshots. A
graphic designer from California
came along to promote his
mural of the Princess made

entirely of 10,000 jellybeans.

The White House gala the
night before was attended by
Mr George Bush, the Vice-
President, who said mysteri-
ously: "If Paul Revere were to
ride again today he would be
yelling: 'The British are com-
ing, the British are coming'."
But he would be driving a
Toyota through J.C. Penney's
parking lot. Political analysts
are still trying to sort that one
out.

The couple went separate
ways later yesterday, with the
Prince visiting the Library of
Congress to discuss the constitu-
tion with top legal scholars;
including Chief Justice Warren
Unger, while the Princess
toured a drug rehabilitation
centre for adolescents accom-
panied by Mrs Nancy
Reagan. There was another gala
dinner last night at the
National Gallery. Today they
will be in Palm Beach, Florida.

Follow
the
Leader

the
quality
scotch

ESTABLISHED 1825

Teachers' talks fail after hours spent in squabbling

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Talks aimed at a settlement of the nine-month old teachers' pay dispute yesterday broke up in squabbling chaos after seven hours, a casualty of in-fighting among the unions.

Industrial action is now almost certain to continue, with a settlement unlikely before Christmas.

The historic meeting of the teachers' side of the Burnham committee, the first since the National Union of Teachers was stripped of its majority, ended with no decision after the vital two-vote majority now given to the smaller unions in theory evaporated into a tied vote of 14-14.

First, the Professional Association of Teachers, the no-strike union, which has one vote, abstained on the motion that talks should be restarted. Previously it had been unable to gain support for amending the motion to include a reference to restructuring teachers' pay.

Then the college lecturers' union, NATFHE, which is due to lose its one vote on the panel on December 2, voted with the NUT against the motion. This is the first time that NATFHE has used its vote for months, and it resulted in a tie.

The second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which moved that talks should begin on the basis of the last, said that NATFHE

Coal board may alter conciliation system

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The National Coal Board has indicated to the mining unions that the industry's conciliation machinery may have to be dismantled because of the emergence of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

It is also seeking a High Court ruling that the industry's top level of conciliation, the national reference tribunal, is not competent to make a judgement on a claim by the National Union of Mineworkers that the UDM should not be recognized.

The board is about to launch "wide-ranging consultations" with the unions on how the conciliation and consultation machinery, in existence since 1946, should be amended.

In doing so, the board said in a statement, it appreciated "that the membership of the UDM may well in future not be limited to Nottinghamshire, south Derbyshire or the North-east." The present machinery, based on the premise of a single union for all mineworkers, operates on an area and national structure.

"It may well be that this machinery is no longer appropriate now and it will therefore have to be replaced by a structure based upon smaller groupings whereby the choice of union reflects the wishes of the majority of mineworkers employed with such a group."

A third of the 300-strong workforce at Trenton workshops, Stoke-on-Trent, have decided to join the breakaway Union.



Security surrounding Lambeth Magistrates' Court yesterday for committal proceedings in seaside bombings

Liverpool is rebuffed by Labour cities

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

Attempts to help Liverpool to bail out of its budget crisis with a whip-round of borrowing allocations among other Labour-led city councils have raised only £900,000, less than one tenth of what the city's leader says it needs.

Only four of the 46 Labour-controlled councils belonging to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities have offered to borrow powers to Liverpool. Even they have attached conditions which demand that the city set its books straight before expecting outside aid.

Labour groups of councillors have been particularly angered by Liverpool's claim that the association's initiative could raise £10 million. They say that £3 million would have been an ambitious target.

At a meeting yesterday with the association, Liverpool's Militant-supporting leaders were told that no more councils could be expected to come forward with offers of help unless the city first agrees to accept recommendations made in a report on the city's finances by four leading local government treasurers.

The report said that banks and financial institutions will not resume lending to Liverpool until the city council restores confidence by showing a determination to balance its books.

An association official said yesterday: "We have been to the 46 Labour councils, and they have all either rejected help outright, or demanded that Liverpool accept the treasurers' report, or asked when Liverpool are going to help themselves."

The impasse has been reached because Mr Tony Byrne, Liverpool's finance committee chairman, refuses to consider a rate rise and savings until borrowing allocations are promised. Other Labour councils will offer nothing until a rate rise and savings are agreed by Liverpool.

The Merseyside Communist Party branch yesterday attacked Militant's tendency-supporting Liverpool councillors, accusing them of alienating people with their unreasonable demands.

NHS 'dirty workers' put pay claim

By Our Labour Correspondent

Leaders of 270,000 National Health Service ancillary workers, who were said to be working for poverty wages, yesterday submitted a claim for a "very substantial" pay increase. They challenged the Government to reward them if they did not take industrial action.

The "dirty jobs" workers settled this year's pay increase of 4.7 per cent, due last April in September, but have quickly submitted next year's claim. Union leaders have launched a campaign, both inside and outside Parliament, to draw attention to low pay in the health service, under the slogan "the time for justice has arrived". They have released figures showing that cleaners and canteen workers earn £2.53 for a 40-hour week, porters £7.70 a week and cooks £82.95.

The large pay increases sought in next spring's settlement will move them nearer their target of two thirds of national average earnings of about £130 a week and re-establish parity with local authority manual workers who recently secured an 8 per cent settlement.

Mr Bob Jones, the health unions' chief negotiator, said that while 10 years ago a male ancillary worker was £4.70 a week, behind national average earnings he now trailed by £70 a week.

Mr Jones, a national officer with the National Union of Public Employees, said that ancillary workers were continually improving productivity. With job losses running at 18,000 a year the improvement in efficiency, at 7 per cent a year, "outstrips industry's record," he said.

Mr John Edmunds, general secretary-elect of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, said: "This campaign is going to test the Government's sincerity. If we receive a three or four per cent offer the conclusion will be obvious that you don't get any justice from this Government without threatening to hurt people."

Minister cautious on Ulster agreement

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, insisted yesterday that difficult issues still had to be resolved in the Anglo-Irish discussions before any agreement could be reached with the republic.

His attempts to counter speculation that a deal and a summit meeting between Dr Garret Fitzgerald and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, is imminent came as Mr Harold McCusker, deputy leader of the Official Unionist Party, warned loyalists against "foolish" street protests in the wake of any agreement.

Mr King dismissed speculation that the two prime ministers will meet on Friday after an agreement had been reached by the full Cabinet on Thursday. He said: "I do not know when there will be a summit. There are difficult issues still to be resolved. Until those are resolved we will not know if there will be an agreement."

Mr King and his officials of the Northern Ireland Office are concerned at the effects on both communities in the province at the continuing delay in finally agreeing a package that can be presented to both British and Irish cabinets. That has created an atmosphere in which speculation and rumour is rife with the prospect of an agreement dominating the media in both parts of the province.

Mr King attempted again yesterday to reassure unionists of their position within the United Kingdom. He said: "I have made it absolutely clear

there will be no change in the status or sovereignty of Northern Ireland or in the responsibilities of ministers who are responsible to the Parliament of the United Kingdom."

He indicated that the unionist demand for a referendum or any agreement would be rejected as a deal would be debated in Westminster, which was the sovereign body of the United Kingdom.

Formal approval of the agreement negotiated during the past 15 months is expected to be given by the British Cabinet on Thursday if the final obstacles are resolved. The deal is expected to set up a joint ministerial commission, giving the Irish government a consultative role in the province but with executive authority remaining in the hands of British ministers.

Because Mrs Thatcher is known to dislike travelling to Dublin due to enormous security which inevitably surrounds such a visit, increased security activity at Shannon airport and an isolated country hotel in Co. Clare has aroused speculation that it might be the venue for a summit.

The Dromoland Castle Hotel, near Newmarket on Fergus, can be reached by helicopter from the airport seven miles away.

According to an opinion poll commissioned by the *Cork Examiner*, the public expects little or nothing to emerge from the Anglo-Irish talks (our Cork Correspondent writes).

Letters page 15

Legion bacteria found in hospital

There is evidence of Legionella, the bacteria that has caused the outbreak of Legionnaire's disease in which three people have died in Glasgow, in two cooling towers at a new wing of Glasgow Royal Infirmary, the Greater Glasgow Health Board said yesterday.

A man in the hospital's peripheral vascular unit was described as critically ill and a case, that of a woman aged 56, was reported. Her case is not linked with the outbreak.

By-election date

The Tyne Bridge by-election will be expected to be moved in the Commons this week, with a poll on December 5, Labour held the seat at the general election with a 11,693 majority.

Call to expel Militant ally

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Pressure on the Labour leadership to become involved in Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk's selection battle grew yesterday when a constituency branch called for the expulsion of the local party chairman for supporting Militant. Labour MPs also offered to help the MP if he called a by-election to see off the Militant threat.

Mr Kilroy-Silk last night echoed the call of the Prescott East branch of his Knowsley, North, seat, on Merseyside, for the expulsion of Mr Jim McGinley, the party chairman, who said on BBC television last week that he was a Militant supporter.

The branch is to send its resolution calling for the

expulsion, which is likely to be defeated in the far-left-dominated general management committee, to Labour's north-west regional headquarters, and to the ruling national executive of the party.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said last night: "Labour Party rules and constitution say that membership of the Militant Tendency is incompatible for membership of the Labour Party. This man has gone on national television to say he is a Militant supporter. That makes him inappropriate to be a member of the party, still less chairman of the constituency party. A branch has now said so and it is up to the NEC to support that branch."

Meanwhile Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, said last night that at least 10 MPs had responded to his call to help Mr Kilroy-Silk if he called a by-election. One of the options being considered by Mr Kilroy-Silk if he is deselected and replaced by the Militant supporter, Mr Tony Mulhearn, is to stand down and force a contest.

Mr Field is confident of getting help from up to 50 MPs. Labour's organization committee yesterday snubbed any attempts by parts of the Workers' Revolutionary Party to ally themselves with the Labour Party, a possibility mooted after the recent split in the WRP.

Blacks march in police shooting protest

By Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent

Several thousand blacks marched from Brixton to Hyde Park yesterday to demand the arrest of policemen involved in the shooting of Mrs Cherry Groce and the raid that resulted in the death of Mrs Cynthia Jarrett.

The marchers, many wearing Rasta colours with hair in dreadlocks, chanted "mur-

derers" in response to the repetition of officers' names.

A 10,000-signature petition was handed in at No 10 Downing Street by the organizers. Miss Imelda Inyang, chair of the Cherry Groce Support Campaign, told the rally in Hyde Park that it was the most marvellous moment because black organizations had worked together for the demonstration, the start of the campaign for an independent public inquiry.

The organizers estimated the

Eight face bombing charges

Committall proceedings

against six men and two women accused of the seaside resorts bombing campaign opened at Lambeth Magistrates' Court in south London yesterday with Mr George Barhurst-Norman, the stipendiary, repeating his earlier warning to the Press against breaches of reporting restrictions.

The defendants include Patrick Joseph Magee, aged 34, against whom there are five counts of murder and who is also accused of causing an explosion, conspiracy to cause explosions, possessing explosives, placing an explosive device, and two firearms offences.

Gerald Patrick McDonnell, aged 34; Peter John Joseph Sherry, aged 30; Donald Dominic Craig, aged 28; Martina Elizabeth Anderson, aged 23, and Ella O'Dwyer, aged 26, are charged with conspiracy to cause explosions. John Gerald Boyle, aged 25, is accused of possessing explosives, withholding information and aiding and abetting conspiracy.

Sean McShane, aged 32, is charged with conspiracy to cause explosions and aiding and abetting conspiracy.

Walkouts by immigration staff fail to disrupt

Union, a staff association representing about 70 per cent of the officers, advised its members to report for work normally pending talks today with government ministers.

If the discussions do not result in a Whitehall undertaking to tackle undermining, the organization will hold a ballot on strike action. Any such action will seek to disrupt administration rather than passenger movement.

The TUC-affiliated SCPS is due to meet government representatives on Monday and does not expect any further walkouts until then. Although its members at Dover are holding a meeting later this week.

Widows' tribute to Burma dead

From Alan Hamilton, Rangoon

Dense jungle encroaches on the walls of the immaculate meadow at Hsank-Kyan in Burma, the largest war cemetery in south-east Asia.

Overlooking its 7,200 headstones is a colonnade of memorial tablets recording 27,000 men who died in the Burma campaign and whose remains were never found.

Buried where they fell, white ants ate their humble wooden crosses within weeks, and by the time the post-war searchers returned to move them to proper burial, the jungle had folded its impenetrable shroud over their simple graves.

In what will be the last official ceremony to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the peace, 100 British war

widows and veterans yesterday paid their Remembrance Day tributes at Hsank-Kyan.

In deference to the diverse religions of the British, Indian and African dead from the Burmese campaign buried there, the brief ceremony was wholly secular, with a laying of wreaths by Commonwealth ambassadors and a recitation of the Burma veterans' most cherished lines, inscribed on a soldier's headstone.

When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today.

Several of the British women, having honoured their own husbands' graves, placed flowers by the anonymous headstone inscribed simply "A

Soldier", is the knowledge that it was the only individual act of Remembrance that the unknown men remains would ever receive.

The 230 widows and veterans selected by ballot from 1,500 applicants who have taken part in the Government's far east pilgrimage have visited many sites in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Burma.

A small party was even ferried out to scatter 840 individual poppies on the sea off the Malaysian coast when the warships, Prince of Wales and Repulse, were smelt with the loss of that number of men.

All have relished the experience, have coped majestically with deeply stirred emotions and have won enormous admiration

School staff failed to supervise children properly

Drownings at Land's End



Mr Robin Harrington (left) and Mr Alec Askew, both criticized in the report

were seen by Mr Askew on rocks at the foot of the cliff. He was concerned that they had reached this point and wanted them to return.

He had expected the children would move back up the cliff on seeing him leave with other children from a point higher up the cliff.

"This expectation was not in fact borne out," said Mr Garrett, "and we find it difficult to understand how it would have been, unless some very definite signals had been transmitted to the children."

"The Stoke Poges party, and Mr Askew as its leader, went of Land's End with some assumptions about what conditions would be like, and a view of

how it would be reasonable to organize appropriate supervision of the children.

"They were only assumptions because there had been no previous reconnaissance of Land's End, nor had detailed information been obtained by prior contact. The validity of the assumptions was not checked on arrival."

"We also consider that there were serious failures during the visit to react appropriately when it became clear that children had gone further than expected and were in situations where they at risk."

The inquiry found that the conduct of the party at Land's End was not based on knowledge of the area, but on

preconceptions. The children had scrambled down the cliff to rocks very close to the sea, it said, without any supervisor at first being aware of this.

"We consider that the Events at Land's End resulted essentially from a number of misjudgements and from one in particular, which had unintended but tragic consequences - namely Mr Askew's reaction when he saw the children down on the rocks," the report said.

The report added that Mr Askew's wife, Joyce, and a parent helper, Mr Christopher Birch, were both aware that the children "were in places which they might themselves have questioned and shown some initiative in reacting to, but they relied in the judgement of Mr Askew, as leader of the party, as to what was appropriate."

"In view of this, we think it is difficult to express any real criticism of them."

The report also stated that there was no question of considering criticism of the other parent helper, Mr David Paddison.

The boys who died were Nicholas Hurst, aged 10, Ricci Larden, aged 11, years Holloway, aged 11, and Robert Ankers, aged 12.

The report's proposals include a recommendation that school governing bodies be asked to review arrangements for approving visits and journeys, their approval being required where there is an absence of one night or more and where day visits or journeys involve travel by air or sea and where day visits involve a hazardous activity.

The county education committee will be asked to consider that and other proposals at its meeting on November 20.

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PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 11 1985

Missing claimants

Fraud prosecutions

Cheap fares

Sedgemore is 'named' for Lawson attack

JMB CASE

Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney, South and Shoreditch, was suspended from the Commons after refusing to withdraw an allegation that Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was "perverting the course of justice".

He made the allegation last Friday in a lengthy speech about Johnson's May 1984 election. He spoke during the continued debate on the local address in reply to the Queen's Speech setting out Government plans for the new session.

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, told Mr Sedgemore that after he had refused to take any of the three opportunities to withdraw the allegation, Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons, then moved that he be suspended from the service of the Commons.

That motion was carried by 204 votes to 45, a majority in favour of 159. The Speaker then instructed Mr Sedgemore to withdraw from the Chamber and Mr Sedgemore did so without further comment.

The matter was raised by Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C) who, on a point of order, said that he had given notice to the Speaker that he would raise the matter.

You will know the said that in Friday's debate on the local address Mr Sedgemore made an extremely lengthy speech and professed that speech by levelling the gravest possible charge against the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Nigel Lawson), what he said against Mr Lawson was: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer is perverting the course of justice".

That, on the face of it, is a very grave accusation. It is difficult to think of a graver accusation that could be made against a Privy Councillor and member of the Government.

In the course of his extremely long speech, Mr Sedgemore did not refer to the Chancellor again. He made no attempt to justify the allegation which could be made against a Privy Councillor.

Is it not a gross abuse of this House for an MP to come to this place and make such a statement to substantiate such a gross abuse? Is it not right that Mr Sedgemore, who is in this place, should have an opportunity to make a statement, apologise and to withdraw? (Conservative cheers)

The Speaker: I was not in the Chair when this statement was made, but I have read the speech by Mr Sedgemore and in particular the allegation to which Mr Hogg has referred.

This was a serious reflection on the conduct of the Chancellor and, as the House knows, it is our rule that one MP should not cast such a reflection on another MP unless the debate is based on a substantive motion dealing directly with the conduct complained of.

In making this allegation, Mr Sedgemore breached this rule of order. I am sure the House would not wish a personal allegation of this kind, touching the honour of a Privy Councillor to be on the record, and I ask Mr Sedgemore to withdraw that comment.

Mr Sedgemore: I appreciate Mr Hogg's concern about the difficulties the Chancellor is in, (Conservative protests), I appreciate your concern over this matter, Mr Speaker, and you will know that there has been an exchange of letters today (Monday) between the Chancellor and me.

When I was sent to this House of

Commons my constituents expected me to call ministers to account and to do so without fear or favour.

What is happening in this case is that the Chancellor has made a grave constitutional error. The right course would be for the Prime Minister this afternoon to call for his resignation.



Hogg: Gravest charge against Chancellor

The Speaker: Is Mr Sedgemore saying in effect that he is repeating the allegation?

Mr Sedgemore: I could take the easy and the coward's way out and withdraw that allegation, I shall not do that. With great regret, I cannot do that. The public outside expect the truth (Conservative protests) and, with even greater regret, repeat the allegation.

The Speaker: If Mr Sedgemore will withdraw that allegation, I shall be forced to name him. I give him one further chance.

Mr Sedgemore: I cannot withdraw that allegation because it is true. The Speaker: In that case, I name him.

Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, then moved that Mr Sedgemore be suspended from the service of the Commons.

As the House divided on the motion, Mr Denis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) protested: I have been asked to speak.

Mr Andrew Fooks (Warley, East, Lab): during the division, the Speaker and wearing a top hat in the customary manner, raised a point of order.

In view of the comments you made a few moments ago, Mr Speaker, the said about the conduct of MPs in the House, would it not now be in order to require Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, to come and make an apology about what he said about Mr Sedgemore's privileges in immigration problems?

The Speaker: The two cases are in no way connected. Mr Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab), procured the same top hat and said to the Speaker: I do not accept that there is no connection between the two cases. In your ruling you said that it was against the rules for one MP to call into question the integrity of another MP. That is exactly what Mr Waddington did. You must surely deal with that case in the same way as this.

The Speaker: I have received a letter about the allegation by Mr Waddington, asking whether it was a breach of privilege. The matter is not considered a breach of privilege.

Mr Skinner and Mr Tony Banks (Newham, North-West, Lab) acted as tellers against Mr Biffen's motion.

After the resolution was carried, by 204 votes to 45, The Speaker said: I have to direct the honourable member to withdraw in compliance with the order the House has just made.

Mr Sedgemore walked out.

New attack on lodgings abuse

SOCIAL SECURITY

A fresh attempt at revising board and lodging regulations and a concerted campaign to tackle fraud and abuse of the system by claimants and landlords is being made by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services.

He told the Commons during the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech that new regulations setting time and financial limits on board and lodging payments had been laid before Parliament that day.

He explained that the state earnings related benefit (SERB) could not be left unchanged. The Government could ensure the resources of the state were not pre-empted by limiting the flexibility of future government to carry out policies they judged necessary.

Opening the debate Mr Fowler said that in a fortnight the Government would uprate social security benefits and that would amount to £2 billion to social security spending and bring total spending on it to well over £40 billion. That was almost a third of public expenditure.

The Government had more than fulfilled its pledge to protect the value of the retirement pension and stood by that pledge today. Between November 1978 and November this year pensions would have risen by over 36 per cent, 10 per cent ahead of price rises.

This month's uprating meant that since 1979 the Tories had increased the social security budget by 30 per cent in real terms. Some of that increase had been due to unemployment.

The Government was now paying higher value pensions to more pensioners than ever before. The Government had already committed vast resources to social security and, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Lawson, had said, it was a long-term commitment.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said the current year was supposed to be the year of the biggest review of the welfare state since Beveridge but it was the view of many that it was rapidly turning into the biggest fiasco of this Parliament.

The Government still did not know two years after the review had been inaugurated and a year after the review had been completed. The White Paper was still only part written even though it was months overdue, because four drafts had been turned up.

SERPs was not being reformed; it was either being abolished or emasculated. The whole exercise had been flawed from the start. It was impossible to have genuine reform when beginning from a nil-cost remit. That merely led to a redistribution of poverty among already poor groups.

The Secretary of State had avoided the question of the future of SERPs. Even so, the Secretary of State, recognized that a computer 5 per cent contribution to private schemes would be nowhere near enough to compensate for SERPs or even to cover the administrative costs.

The result would be a huge increase in poverty in old age which SERPs was on the brink of eradicating. There was no justification for the emasculation of SERPs in either the short or long term because no alternative could provide pensions on anything like the low cost of SERPs.

The next Labour government would reintroduce SERPs in the same form as an improved form. What was proposed was a Green Paper proposing to make in the social fund, in view of the unparalleled barrage of hostility it had run into? The indignity of having to ask for

discretionary payments and being labelled a bad manager would certainly discourage many from claiming. Once again, the whole exercise was not about reform. It was about huge cuts.

The Government was proposing to freeze child benefit or to uprate it by less than the rate of inflation. The Labour Party was totally opposed to that, believing it should be significantly increased.

The overall impression left by the Green Paper was of a muddled, a complete loss of direction and coherence, a cloak for old-fashioned Tory cuts.

There was no group closely associated with the implementation of these proposals that wanted them. Morale in the Civil Service over this Green Paper had plummeted to an all-time low. That was perhaps the most far-reaching and serious consequence of this whole episode.

How was it that a Secretary of State could perpetrate two appalling gaffs over board and lodging regulations and propose a Green Paper greeted with almost universal hostility and ridicule and riddled throughout with inconsistencies?

There was a bunker mentality prevailing at the Elephant and Castle. Civil servants who did not share the minister's prejudices had been side-lined.

Mr Fowler: What he has just said is totally without foundation and without truth and an even bigger loss of nonsense than the rest of his speech so far.

Mr Meacher: He is talking falsely and untruthfully. I cannot use the word 'lie' but I would like to know what he is talking about and so do the civil servants. Advice to ministers is increasingly being tailored: to what it is known ministers want to hear.

Exchequer's statement, tomorrow would show, was planning, to maintain that commitment.

The existing social security system had become a growing structural danger of collapse. Parts of it were simply indefensible.

The aim of the review of social security, for the first time since the 1940s, was to look at social security overall rather than in a piecemeal way.

One group in most need were low income families with children. Hence the proposal for a family premium with income support. Family income supplement had not adequately tackled the unemployment or the poverty trap.

Spending on board and lodging payments had risen from £200 million a year by the end of 1982 to £600 million a year by the end of 1984.

There was evidence of abuse (he went on) both by landlords and tenants. The Government was now making checks to be made and would make the full results available to MPs.

Nevertheless (he added) it is clear already that there is similar evidence of abuse in other parts of the country.

The evidence we have from other parts of London, parts of Manchester and Edinburgh and from towns like Southend show that an appreciable proportion of claimants were found not to be resident at the hotel named on their claim form. One address which had been given

for 24 claimants proved on investigation to have not a single claimant in residence.

Such examples of abuse involved not only claimants but proprietors. The passing of regulations could reduce the abuse but not totally prevent it.

What is needed (he went on) is a further effort to reduce fraud and abuse and I intend to increase the scale of our effort. I hope that whatever else we may disagree on there may be agreement that fraud and abuse should be combated as effectively as possible and I give notice now that this will be our intention over the coming months.

The Government was seeking to give the public new options, aiming to develop not only personal pensions, but also industry-wide schemes where occupational coverage was low. For the man in a scheme who wanted to do more for himself, the Government would give a right to pay additional voluntary contributions, a proposal that had been universally welcomed.

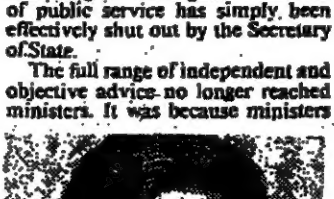
The Government was also aiming to enable new providers to offer pensions and, encourage more competition. Banks, unit trusts and building societies would be able to become pension providers.

There must also be access for the public to new and better information. People had a right to know where they stood in relation to their pension rights.

These changes will come on top of the important improvements in the 1985 Social Security Act (he said) which protects early leavers, confers new rights to transfer and gives people more information about their own schemes. I believe those changes will go down as some of the most important improvements made to occupational schemes.

At least one very senior Civil Servant with a distinguished record according to the highest traditions of public service has simply been effectively shut out by the Secretary of State.

The full range of independent and objective long-term research has been excluded from the Government's view. It was because ministers



Meacher: Senior civil servant shut out

had undermined the integrity of their department that blunder after blunder was now being committed.

The Secretary of State could not evade personal responsibility for the way he had devalued the Civil Service and appalled the morale of those he should be leading. If he had any doubts in his mind, he should have available courses for him after the fiasco of this Green Paper's near universal dismissal would be to withdraw this rejected document and resign.

Mr Michael Meacher-Watson (Newbury, C) said he regretted the proposed Bill on Sunday trading. He wondered what would replace Remembrance Day when the shops were closed and the streets full of traffic and the clamour of people.

Easter Day was just going to become one more shopping day and Christmas Day perhaps become the first day of the sales. He regretted that he could not see any good reason why commercialism should be given so much prominence when the revival of spiritual values was what the nation needed.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab) said the social security review was a euphemism for cutting by the present government and disabled people would be hit by the proposals. Of the 14 additional allowances which were to be scrapped, 10 were directly related to disability.

Individual care would be sacrificed for cost-cutting and administrative convenience.

Dwarf throwing competitions

The Government has no power to ban dwarf-throwing competitions. Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, declared in a written Commons answer.

Repeating to Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab), Mr Mellor said it would be for the courts to decide whether or not, in the circumstances of any case which

came before them, an offence had been committed.

Mr Morris had asked if the Home Office had sought legal advice from outside the Government on the extent to which injuries inflicted in the course of dwarf-throwing competitions might amount to assault. Mr Mellor did not consider any useful purpose would be served by seeking such advice.

The proposed reform of supplementary benefit would involve the introduction of a common basis for system of income support, housing benefit and family support.

The Government was embarking on the biggest computerisation programme in Europe so that DSS offices would no longer depend on time-wasting and inefficient record-keeping methods.

Whatever disagreements there were about whether SERPs should be replaced or restricted, there was widespread acceptance that it could not be left unchanged. Between the present day and 2033 the number of pensioners will grow by four million, while the number of contributors would increase only slightly.

A nation should have the courage to look ahead, and if the best estimates available raised doubts about whether promises made today should be afforded in the future, then the position had to be re-examined.

It would be an abdication of responsibility (he said) to hand down obligations to our children which we believe they cannot fulfil.

While that increased population of pensioners would require many services there would be many needs that could not be foreseen. The Government could, however, ensure the resources of the state were not pre-empted so limiting the flexibility of future governments to carry out policies they judged necessary.

Important changes were also to be made in occupational and personal pensions. At present, nearly half the workforce was without cover from an occupational scheme. Some 11 million were in central aim of Government policy that this position should be improved to produce a growth in the pensioning resources alongside the home-owning democracy the Government was already creating.

Neither the Solicitor General nor the Director of Public Prosecutions is aware of any evidence that would substantiate the allegation.

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Anxieties over new service

PROSECUTION

Everyone wanted the Crown Prosecution Service to operate on terms and conditions which would attract staff of the high quality that was needed, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Solicitor General, told the Commons at question time.

He was replying to Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on the law, who urged him to go back to the Treasury and get more money for salaries in the new service.

Mr Morris began by asking if the Solicitor General was satisfied with progress on the staffing of the prosecution service.

There is (he said) deep and widespread concern regarding the payment of salaries and career structure of the new prosecution service. These are felt by the profession not to come anywhere near the assurances given in the course of Bill to set up the service.

With the Solicitor General before it is too late to go back to the Treasury to get the money and the career structure whereby we can start off with an independent prosecution service worthy of the name and able to attract first-class people?

Mr Patrick Mayhew: I note the expressions of anxiety to which Mr Morris refers. I shall be seeing the (trade union) group again tomorrow (Tuesday).

'Mail' story unfounded

General, in indicating this, told the Commons at question time that the Mail had been invited by the DPP to make available any evidence which might substantiate the story. It was (he said) unable to do so.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds, West, L), who raised the matter, asked the Solicitor General to deny the allegations in the Daily Mail of August 24 and put them to rest.

Minister's pledge on concessionary fares

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TRANSPORT

Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Transport, sought to reassure MPs in the Commons that concessionary fare schemes would continue after the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan councils.

He also said he was angry that thousands of pensioners had been needlessly worried by the GLC's campaign, which suggested the schemes were under threat.

Mr Mitchell: This is entirely a matter for the locally elected bodies through the passenger transport executive in the West Midlands to make its own decision as to how to spend its own resources.

Mr Roger Smeeth, an Opposition spokesman on transport, repudiated Mr Mitchell's hysterical response. He must be aware that we have never ever said that concessionary fares would disappear completely.

We have said that concessionary fares which are currently enjoyed by pensioners are a consequence of the legislation.

Will my constituents in greater Manchester still enjoy the same level of financial support?

Mr Mitchell: There are sufficient resources for the PTA to provide the same level of provision in the past. Whether it chooses to do so is for it to decide and not for the Government to dictate.

million. It is a service where the boroughs, following the GLC, have power to grant and the service of concessionary fares. It is the Transport Act 1985. It will be up to the boroughs who are now discussing it, to do so and all councils are being sounded out and will report to the co-ordinating committee on November 27.

It is blatantly unfair if the GLC came up at this stage with a proposal which will double the cost to the London ratepayers of the service which would not be right and one which would not help those people who wish to go to work.

Computer data Act in force

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The first people to sign the dotted line which puts them within the letter of the latest law were processed yesterday.

They put the Data Protection Registrar, Mr Eric Howe, in business officially and opened the floodgates to an estimated 400,000 applications during the next few months.

At 11.30am the Data Protection Act, 1984 became law after a brief introduction by Mr David Waddington, Home Office Minister of State.

Anyone who uses or who has access to computerized information about individuals will have to lodge their interests with the new registry, a six-month amnesty until May 11 is in force.

Mr Waddington said the Act, which will create important new rights for individuals including the right of access to personal information held about them, was a significant and wide-ranging piece of legislation.

The first people to sign on were Miss Elsa Irving, of the Citizens' Advice Bureau; Ron Carey, chairman of Cheshire County Council; and Mr Frank Allison, company secretary of Middlesbrough-based furniture retailers, Barker and Stonehouse.

Computer Horizons, page 29

Concern at prosecution tactics

DPP's OFFICE

The Director of Public Prosecutions should be asked to put this house in order or resign, Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Lutonborough and Saddleworth, C) maintained during questions in the Commons to the Solicitor General.

Many MPs and members of the public were very disturbed at the workings of the DPP's office, said Mr Dickens.

Time and time again (he said) good and proper evidence is put forward and many times charges are abandoned. Many times lesser charges are brought which disturb many people like myself and certainly disturbs observers at the trial.

Will the Solicitor General ask the DPP to get his house in order or resign?

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When I was sent to this House of

The law the same for rich and poor

CITY FRAUD

The law was the same for financiers, accountants, rich or poor, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, insisted when questioned in the Commons about city fraud.

Sir Patrick told Mr Dennis Skinner (

Peace hopes threatened as racist parties benefit from West Bank violence

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

For the second time in the past week, a young Israeli has been stabbed in the back in the Old City of Jerusalem. Four people have been wounded when their bus on the West Bank was hit by rifle shots. An Arab youth, aged 17, is in hospital with an Israeli soldier's bullet in his stomach after a stone-throwing incident outside a Nablus high school. A Palestinian died when the bomb he was preparing blew up, and another was shot and wounded by an Israeli settler.

On the face of it, the televised call at the weekend from Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, for an increase in what he calls "the armed struggle" in occupied lands, is having a quick and violent response. But tensions on the West Bank are never absent and violence is proving the most successful recruiting sergeant for the Jewish extreme right racist movement which is threatening to stab in the back any peace plan Israel might consider.

The movement's inspiration is Mr Meir Kahane, a Brooklyn-born rabbi who succeeded in winning a seat in the Knesset at the fourth attempt last year and who is now trying to bring in two private members' Bills which would forbid relations, including sexual ones, between Jews and Arabs and reduce

Israeli Arabs to second-class citizens.

Despite a new law forbidding members of racist parties to stand for the Knesset in future, Mr Kahane has just succeeded in winning a case before the High Court that his two Bills must be accepted by the Knesset Speaker, Mr Shlomo Hillel, who has so far used every procedural device to avoid putting them before the Chamber.

The existence of the rabbi's Kach Party is an acute embarrassment to the Government and the country when Israel is seeking to rally world opinion against the 10-year-old UN resolution which says that "Zionism is racism".

Although Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, says he is not impressed by the opinion polls - which show that up to 10 per cent of the population would now support Rabbi Kach - he should be concerned by the appeal his party has among the young.

A recent survey by the respected Van Leer Foundation showed that 50 per cent of all high school students were attracted by the rabbi's ideas. Even more worrying are findings in army tests among young conscripts who currently police incidents of stone-throwing in the Nablus area that there is little or no understanding or tolerance among them

The rabbi's appeal lies in telling the world that the Jews really are the chosen people.

His supporters would refuse to give up an inch of the land Israel occupied after the 1967 war. Among them are those who, in the past week, have threatened civil and even armed rebellion against the Government.

President Herzog, who is a frequent target for the rabbi's attacks, was UN Ambassador when the "Zionism" resolution was passed. He ended his speech then by tearing up a copy of the draft on the rostrum and now he is trying to do much the same to the Kach programme.

"Zionism and racism are two opposites," he said last night on television. "Racism is an internal enemy that must be liquidated without any compromise."

NEW YORK: Israel has launched a campaign to overturn the resolution equating Zionism with racism which was adopted at the height of Arab radicalism and influence at the United Nations (Zoriana Pysarski writes).

President Reagan sent a message pledging to support any move to repeal the measure defining Zionism as racism. He called it a blot on the UN record.

Israeli defence, page 7



Señora María Rodríguez de Almarales (in glasses), widow of Andrés Almarales, leader of the M19 rebels killed in the siege, at his burial on Sunday.

Relatives of Bogotá dead shun service

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Relatives of victims of the Bogotá siege, as well as the surviving Supreme Court judges, apparently boycotted a memorial service in protest at what they see as the Colombian Government's failure to negotiate and avert a blood bath.

The widow of only one of the 12 members of the Supreme Court taken hostage by the guerrillas and killed during the siege attended the memorial service in Bogotá's cathedral. President Betancur of Colombia called for national reconciliation and urged Colombians to "choose between democracy and terrorism" when he addressed the memorial service.

Today official figures put the death toll at 95 in the siege, at the Palace of Justice, which ended when government troops stormed the building which had been taken by guerrillas of the April 19 Movement (M19).

The judiciary remains isolated in its criticism of President Betancur, however, whose decision to use force has been endorsed by virtually all sections of political opinion.

The body of Andrés Almarales Manga, the top M19 leader killed in the siege, was buried in a Bogotá cemetery after his family had been refused access to a series of cemeteries in the city. The church refused to allow a funeral service for him.

Zaire refugees seek sanctuary with Swiss churches

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

About 32 African refugee families - 107 persons in all, including many from Zaire - have put themselves under the protection of the Geneva churches. Dormitories have been opened for them by the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches with social workers constantly present.

About half of the refugees are past the end of the period within which they were obliged to leave Swiss territory after having applications for political asylum rejected. They are being joined by others in similar circumstances.

This development follows last week's operation - code-named "Black Autumn" - in which 59 Africans, among them five women and half a dozen children, were deported from Zurich to Kinshasa in a Swissair DC10 with 120 Swiss gendarmes as escorts.

Fear of the same thing happening to them compelled the 32 families, with 43 children, to appeal to the churches. The Swiss League for Human Rights is urging the Federal Government to appoint an inquiry commission to investigate procedures before the deportation flight. Thirty-seven of the 59 had forged Angolan passports, but were judged to be Zairean nationals. Others had had their political asylum applications finally rejected.

The Government has described as "disinformation" a Swiss daily newspaper report that the Africans were roughly handled by their police guards in flight although it acknowledged that some had to be taken by force into the plane at Zurich.

Officials say the men's handcuffs were removed early in the flight, which otherwise was "normal".

The daily *La Suisse* said that six of the men died at Mamayemo Hospital in Kinshasa as a result of maltreatment by Zairean security police. The federal Ministry of Justice police in Bern said there was no information whatsoever to substantiate this report.

While the Zaire Government has protested officially to Switzerland about "inhuman treatment of the deportees during flight", it is thought to regard most of them as undesirable. Some were alleged to have been involved in a fight with President Mobutu's bodyguard during the lavish birthday party he gave last month for 200 people at a Geneva hotel.

Welfare bodies have also taken up the case of 52 Chileans told to leave the country. A dozen Turks in similar circumstances have gone.

More than 1,000 new applicants for political asylum presented themselves in September, including many Tamils. The Government had said they would not be sent back to Sri Lanka if their lives would be at risk.

Jordan ends shelter for Assad's enemies

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Syria yesterday welcomed a declaration by King Husain of Jordan that he would no longer allow Muslim fundamentalists opposed to President Assad of Syria to shelter in his country.

King Husain's decision is in line with joint Jordanian and Syrian efforts to improve relations after a five-year strain largely caused by Jordan's alleged support of underground guerrillas of the Muslim Brotherhood. "We received the announcement with relief," a senior Syrian official told the Syrian news agency, SANA.

The Jordanian announcement was made in a letter signed by King Husain to Mr Zaid Rifai, the Jordanian Prime Minister, who is expected to visit Damascus today. Jordan was among the countries that received Muslim Brotherhood guerrillas who fled Syria in the wake of the crackdown launched by the

Assad Government against the organization's stronghold in the central city of Hama in 1982.

"It turns out that some who did have a connection with the bloody events in Syria were present in our country," the King's letter said. "There is no room among us either today for any betrayer, plotter or agent of the enemies," it said.

Mr Rifai's trip to Damascus entails yet another friendly mission, since he is scheduled to discuss details of a planned meeting between King Husain and President Assad. The two leaders last met in 1980 in Belgrade, where they attended the funeral of Marshal Tito.

The Syria-Jordan reconciliation was largely credited to Saudi Arabia's mediation. Mr Rifai has recently held two rounds of talks with his Syrian counterpart, Mr Abdul-Raouf Kasbi, in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

Rift opens over Arafat declaration

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

Differences seem to be emerging between the Egyptian and Palestinian interpretations of last week's Cairo Declaration.

Last Thursday, Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, standing beside President Mubarak of Egypt at Cairo's El Qubba Palace, stated that the PLO denounced terrorism against civilians anywhere and would prosecute such acts in future, but still reserved the right of Palestinians to use military resistance in occupied territories.

President Mubarak was quoted on Saturday as saying that he understood this declaration to mean that the PLO would undertake military operations only in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, not in Israel.

PLO spokesmen in Cairo, however, do not seem to want to make clear whether or not military operations in the state of Israel are to be restricted.

Meanwhile, Egypt's Foreign Minister, Mr Esmat Abdel Meguid, arrived in Amman with a message from the Egyptian leader to King Husain of Jordan, to brief him on the PLO chairman's visit. A senior Egyptian source said on Sunday that Egypt and Jordan were holding intensive contacts with the United States to study where to go next in the peace process in the light of a four-point peace plan based on the February 11 agreement with Mr Arafat, and Israel's call for peace with Jordan before the year is out.

Another Libya death plot foiled

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

Mr Abdul Hamid Bakoush, Prime Minister of Libya under the monarchy overthrown by Colonel Gaddafi in 1969, has been the target of an assassination attempt in Egypt for the second time in less than a year.

The Egyptian Minister of the Interior, Mr Ahmed Rushdy, said yesterday that security forces had foiled a plot to kill Dr Bakoush and another Libyan exile Mr Muhammad Mogarief, who was once a minister in the Gaddafi government.

A year ago, a plot to kill Dr Bakoush, allegedly backed by Libya, was discovered. Two Britons Mr Anthony Gill and Mr Eric Shiner and two Maltese were implicated and deported.

Dr Bakoush said in Cairo yesterday: "I was lunching at a villa belonging to a fellow Libyan last Wednesday, a few kilometres west of Alexandria."

"At around three o'clock, we heard shooting in the street that sounded like a battle. I admit I wasn't courageous, just waited for it all to die down. When we went out into the street, we saw several police cars, two Toyota trucks and I saw three Libyans lying wounded on the ground and a fourth being led away to a police car."

"Egyptian security told me later they had known of the plot and prepared a trap for the assassins. I was not informed."

Mr Rushdy said that Egypt had expected more attempts on Dr Bakoush's life ever since the security forces had tricked Libya with faked photographs into believing they had succeeded in killing him last November.

Emir of Qatar makes state visit to Britain

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani arrives in London today for the first state visit to Britain by an Emir of Qatar since the oil-rich Gulf state gained independence from Britain in 1971.

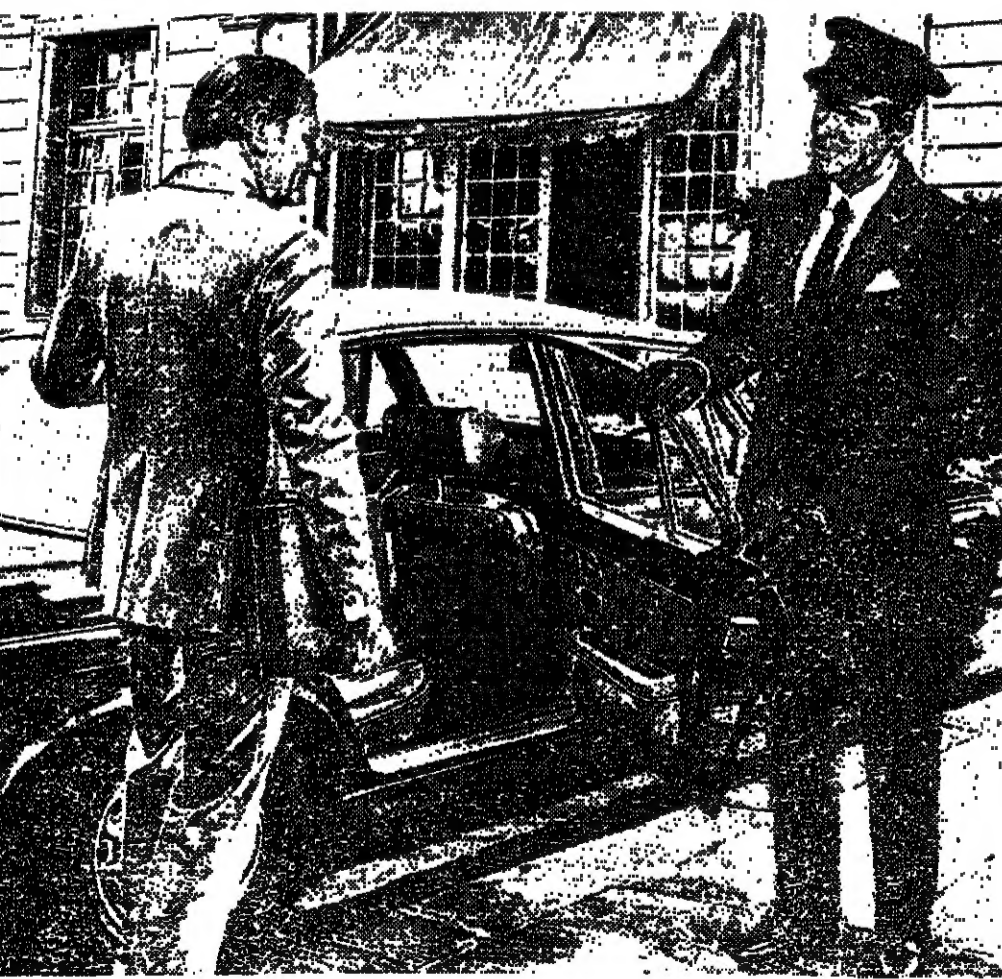
The Emir, who speaks virtually no English, will be the Queen's guest at Buckingham Palace during his four-day stay. The Queen visited Qatar on a tour of the Gulf in 1979. She will meet him at Victoria Station and they will drive in procession to the palace.

The Emir will hold talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who visited his nation of 250,000 people in 1981.

He will visit the British Aerospace plant at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, to watch displays by civil and military aircraft, including the Tornados, the Sea Harrier and the Hawk.

● BAGHDAD: A high-level delegation of the Gulf Co-operation Council, led by the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Youssef Alawi, arrived to explore Iraq's views before embarking on a new mediation effort in Iran to end the five-year-old Gulf war. Qatar Special Report, page 17.

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As a workforce the Welsh are anything but striking.

High tech industry hasn't been the only recent arrival in the Valleys.

Hand in hand with the silicon chips and fibre optics a new attitude has appeared.

The figures below are from a sample of ten companies, typical of those now establishing themselves in Wales. Between them, they employ over 5,000 workers.

And the difficulty was actually finding firms that had lost any man-hours at all.

One Japanese company did suffer a stoppage; the national engineering strike of '79, which originated outside Wales.

And the four American companies had lost all of one day between them.

Actually, to be quite honest, there was also a ten-minute walkout at Siliconix, over greenhouse conditions in high summer at their factory.

(Mopping their own brows, the management soon agreed that a little breeze wouldn't go amiss.)

Without the hiccoughs at these firms, our figures would have been so saintly as to defy belief.

So what has changed so radically in Wales? Many companies now form their agreements with one union and one only.

Which doesn't mean there are no disputes. But they do get settled without

any of the paralytic seizures of full-scale industrial action.

And what moved these companies to relocate to Wales in the first place?

They wanted hard-working people, certainly. But they also came for the WDA's own industry: creating investment packages from a great range of sources.

They came for modern factories sited in green fields.

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And they came for the breathtaking beauty of the country. The one side of Wales that everyone always finds striking.

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South Africa prepares contingency plan for repatriating 1.5m blacks

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa is drawing up a contingency plan for repatriating 1.5 million foreign blacks working here, as part of a strategy to meet the possible effects of international economic sanctions.

The Minister of Manpower, Mr Pieter du Plessis, yesterday said the Government had "no immediate plan or desire to summarily repatriate large numbers of foreign workers", but a contingency plan was "essential" as part of the Government's overall strategy for relieving unemployment in the face of disinvestment, sanctions and boycotts.

According to the Government, there are 1.5 million foreign blacks working in South Africa. About 350,000 are on legal work permits (210,000 of them in the gold and coal mines), and the rest are employed illegally. The main countries of origin are Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana, Malawi and Swaziland.

Many foreign blacks are believed to be employed as farm labour, with smaller numbers in manufacturing. Others find casual work as domestic servants, gardeners, odd-job men and the like. Identifying and rounding up those who are here illegally would be a major operation.

The Government showed its hand after a story on the front page of yesterday's *Business*.

Dutch fugitive to be interviewed by police

Rotterdam (AP) - The Netherlands and South Africa have reached a tentative agreement that would allow South African police to interview a Dutch fugitive about alleged weapons smuggling, according to a press report here yesterday. Mr Klaas de Jonge has been in the Dutch Embassy offices in Pretoria since July 19.

Day, the country's only financial daily, which reported that a decision to reduce the number of foreign workers had been taken by the State Security Council, an inner cabinet of senior ministers and military and intelligence chiefs.

It would seem likely that the information was leaked to the press by some of the business people the Government has consulted about its plan, and who are opposed to it.

In a leading article *Business Day* said repatriation would be "a clear act of defence and provocation that would rebound heavily on our economy".

The President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Clive Knobbs, said he was glad to hear that the Government had no immediate plans to expel large numbers of foreign workers.

"Any large-scale repatriation would be severely disruptive, socially, economically and politically," he said. "The backlash would be horrific, not only in economic terms, but in damage to confidence in the entire South African mining industry at national and international level".

Meanwhile, the police reported continued scattered unrest, with some injuries but no deaths, in various parts of the country. In a white area of Cape town, a car belonging to Mrs Di Bishop, a member of the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party, was set alight outside her home on Sunday night by unknown arsonists.

More than 30 people detained under the state of emergency regulations have gone on hunger strike, according to a committee of their families and friends. The police would only confirm hunger strikes by two emergency detainees in Pollsmoor prison near Cape Town, and by seven others awaiting trial for alleged security offences in Oudshoorn prison, also in Cape Province.

In the Eastern Cape, the chief organizer of the black consumer boycott of white-owned shops, Mr Mkhutshini Jack, and 18 others were released yesterday from jail on the orders of the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange.



President Mitterrand of France laying a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris to mark Armistice Day yesterday.

Homes inferno after US planes collide

New Jersey (AP, NYT) - The pilots of a corporate jet and a small plane that collided on Sunday night over the New York suburb of Cliffside Park knew of the danger minutes before the crash, which burned down five residential buildings and killed at least five people, authorities said.

It had earlier been feared that the fuel-fueled inferno had trapped 10 families in the buildings. All but one man, however, had been accounted for by yesterday morning, Captain Joseph Crapotta of the state police said.

Two victims were found in the Piper Cherokee, a light plane, that struck the front porch of two-story apartment building in near-by Fairview. A body was found beneath the wreckage.

The other plane, a Nabisco Brands Falcon 50 jet with two on board, hit two two-story apartment buildings, levelling them and igniting a fire that engulfed three other structures. At least eight people injured on the ground were treated at hospitals after the accident, which occurred in clear weather shortly after 5pm in Northern New Jersey across the Hudson River from Manhattan.

Authorities said transcripts of radio conversations showed the pilots had been aware of each other but the cause of the collision was not immediately known.

Mr Peter Nelson, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said that the jet was flying from Morristown Airport to Teterboro Airport, four miles west of the crash site. He said the jet was making its approach to Teterboro and was being directed by the control tower when communications were lost at 5:22pm. The main body of the jet, which apparently broke apart as it fell, came down on Cliff Street, in Cliffside Park.

According to transcripts of radio conversations, the pilot of the jet said he was clear of the area where the jet was supposed to be. Mr Nelson said.

A witness, Miss Donna LaSalle, aged 19, said she saw the collision from a shopping centre.

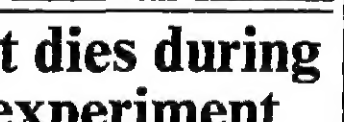
"A small plane was in front, going slow, then all of a sudden a very big plane going fast came up behind it. The big airplane just smashed into the small one," she said.

Another person said he heard a big explosion and "all I saw was a big flash through the air - a trail of flames going right down".

"The wing came over my house in flames," Mr Steve Lolis, aged 50, of Cliffside Park, said. "It was like a flying saucer on fire. By the time I got my family out, I saw the main body come down four houses from mine."

In Fairview, debris from the Piper Cherokee was strewn over eight blocks, said the Fire Commissioner. Mr Joseph Rutich. The planes also knocked down power lines leaving more than 1,400 homes without electricity.

New York City police sent helicopters to illuminate the crash area. The flames of the fires were extinguished on Sunday night but firemen were kept at bay until yesterday morning by the fierce heat.



Paris patient dies during Aids cure experiment

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

One of two patients receiving treatment for Aids at the Laennec Hospital in Paris has died, one of the three doctors involved in the treatment said yesterday.

Professor Philippe Even said the patient, a man aged 38 being treated with the drug cyclosporine to halt the advancement of Aids, also was suffering from serious infections in different parts of his body which, together with an intolerance to medicine not linked to cyclosporine, caused his death.

The professor said this death would not affect their experiments with cyclosporine, which he hoped would be extended to Aids patients in other French hospitals.

At the end of October, Professor Even and two colleagues caused consternation in the international medical world by calling a press conference to announce the discovery of the cyclosporine treatment.

The announcement was considered premature and based on insufficient evidence.

Constant fear of annihilation forces rueful dependence on generous aid from outside

In the first of two articles on Israeli defence spending, IAN MURRAY explains how the bloated military budget is giving rise to fears that Israel's independence is being undermined.

No other democratic country proportionately spends so much on its own defence as Israel and probably no other democratic country could politically afford to spend between a fifth and a quarter of its wealth - its gross domestic product - on its armed forces.

But in Israel a politician can win favour by protecting the size of the defence budget. "The people of Israel are honestly afraid that they will be wiped out by their enemies," Mr Yacov Arnon, a distinguished advocate of peace, admits. "We are strongly influenced by what they tried to do to us in the last war."

"That is why the peace front in Israel is not against a strong Army. There are no pacifists in Israel's peace front. We are all afraid and the politicians know it."

That is why Israel has always been prepared to pay heavily for its defence. Up until 1967 it spent about 10 per cent of its GDP on it. But in 1967 the Six Day War increased Israel's defence needs and expenditure rose to 15 per cent of GDP and it stayed there until the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

The year of the war saw the defence budget rise to a staggering 35 per cent of GDP, but since then it has, according to Mr Arnon's figures, never gone below about 25 per cent. Official figures put it at around 18 per cent, but it is still much more than the country can afford on its own.

The Government's income is around \$23 billion (\$16 billion) a year, but more than half of that has to go on servicing the external debt. All that remains to run the country is \$11 billion - and the defence requirement has now been pruned down to "just" \$4 billion, from \$5 billion two years ago.

The huge Israeli defence industry, which employs 18 per cent of the country's industrial workforce, is no help. Despite exports worth \$850 million last year it is still a financial burden on the state. Buyers are harder and harder to find in a competitive world market where many countries refuse even to consider Israeli products, however good. Among

the countries which are prepared to buy are those run by regimes Israel would politically prefer not to deal with.

The United States is an important customer, particularly for weapons like the Uzi sub-machine gun and the Galil assault rifle and for a range of spare parts for everything from F16 aircraft to anti-tank guns, for which Israel has been able to design improvements.

Typical of these is the special armour developed for

the Israeli-made Merkava tank, which is now being fitted to the Army's American M-60 Patton and British Centurions. Because of this and advanced fire extinguisher equipment, not a single Israeli tank soldier suffered burn injuries during the Lebanon

incursion.

The tank's biggest threat is probably the Israeli Hetz (Arrow) armour-piercing shell - a piece of equipment it does not want to see finding its way into the armoury of potential enemies.

But Israel's development success has lured it into trying to build its own all-purpose aircraft, the Lavi. On its own already uses up \$400 million a year - one tenth of the total defence budget - even though it is now clear that this will not be enough to create the world-beating aircraft it was meant to be.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, complained this month that he had been forced to preside over the biggest cut in the military budget in the nation's history. The Government's tough austerity programme aimed at curbing runaway inflation allows for only \$2.6 billion. The rest has to come from American grants.

"There is no way we can cope without generous aid from outside," officials in the De-

fence Ministry ruefully admit. Israel therefore cannot run the risk of offending American policy, for fear that its essential aid will be cut off.

Israel pride is saved by the argument that America is getting a good bargain for its money. Aid to Israel at the moment runs at no more than \$4 billion. For that America has a totally reliable ally in one of the world's most volatile regions with a highly efficient army preventing a Communist take-over of the area. Not a single American soldier is needed. That compares with the \$120 billion America spends supporting Nato and the enormous cost of keeping 30,000 American troops in Korea.

But Mr Arnon, a trained economist who was Director-General of the Israeli Treasury for 14 years, clearly sees that this level of dependence is turning Israel into a client state - however benign American influence may be.

He still believes that Israel will need to spend around 10 per cent of its GDP on defence even if the peace treaty he wants to see were negotiated. At that level American aid would not be essential and the economy could recover.

But others, like Professor Eliahu Kanovsky, an expert on Arab economies at Tel Aviv University, argue that a peace treaty could even add to Israel's military requirements.

He believes that Jordan would be bound to go on building up its defences against other Arab states if it signed a treaty with Israel.

In turn Israel would be forced to respond because it could never be sure that King Hussein would stay in power and that Jordanian armies with their modern equipment would not one day fight Israel again.

Even if Israel were given the weapons, the professor says, it would have to find the money to base and maintain them - an amount equal to double their value. Peace would therefore be more expensive than the present arm stand-off.

Whatever the arguments, whether peace comes or not, there have to be cuts.

Tomorrow: Pruning problems



Realistic Washington lowers its Geneva expectations

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The prospects for next week's superpower summit seem to have dwindled down to the possibility that President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, will produce general guidelines for continued arms control negotiations in Geneva.

The Soviet Union's sharp condemnation of Mr Reagan's weekend radio address to the Russian people has further soured the atmosphere in the run-up to the November 19-20 Geneva meeting. Both Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Robert McFarlane, the National Security Adviser, are publicly gloomy about anything far-reaching coming out of the talks.

There seems little possibility that the superpowers will agree even on a joint communiqué at the conclusion of the summit.

Mr McFarlane said a communiqué might be "inappropriate", and other senior officials indicated that both Moscow and Washington had already agreed not to issue one.

According to one source, Mr Gorbachev told Mr Shultz in Moscow that "extremists" in the US Government and the "military-industrial complex" dominated American policy and sought to crush efforts to improve relations.

Mr Paul Nitze, the senior arms control adviser, seems virtually alone in saying there is a chance for an agreed statement at the summit on guidelines for the course of the adjourned Geneva arms control talks.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief American arms negotiator in Geneva, has returned to

Washington with the other senior members of his team to prepare language on guidelines that might be acceptable to the Soviet Union. Disagreement over President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative remains far and away the main stumbling block.

Both Moscow and Washington seem determined to forget the strange case of Mr Miroslav Medvid, the Ukrainian seaman whose apparent defection attempt irritated relations for several days. Mr Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate, said the case was closed.

The Administration is convinced that Mr Medvid changed his mind because of threats his parents could be harmed if he did not return. His ship, the 120,000-ton grain ship Marshal Koniev, is now in international waters.

European boost for Contadora efforts

From Richard Owen, Luxembourg

European foreign ministers yesterday agreed with their counterparts from five Central American countries on a co-operation pact of economic aid and political dialogue.

The pact, which is due to be signed today, is seen as a European contribution to greater political stability in the region and a boost to the Contadora peace group. EEC officials said, however, that it was most unlikely to include anything as drastic as the sending of peace-keeping forces, as some pressure groups had demanded.

The five Central American signatories are Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The meeting was also attended by the Contadora group consisting of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia.

There was discord within the Central American side over regional peace efforts, with a dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua. Dr Edgardo Paz Barmén, the Honduran Foreign Minister, said Nicaragua was a cause of regional instability and could not play a role in the peace process unless it reduced its arms imports.

Señor Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister, said Nicaragua would not do so as long as the US

threatened Nicaragua by its armed presence in Honduras.

Dr Paz replied that Nicaragua had received Soviet military aid amounting to \$500 million (\$352 million) last year, and said the jet was making its approach to Teterboro and was being directed by the control tower when communications were lost at 5:22pm. The main body of the jet, which apparently broke apart as it fell, came down on Cliff Street, in Cliffside Park.

It was agreed that a human rights clause would be read into the council record with a statement describing the cooperation agreement as "regional and non-discriminatory", meaning in effect that Nicaragua should not be excluded from EEC aid because of its internal policies.

Diplomats said European dialogue with Central America was intended to give the region "links with someone other than the two superpowers".

A Shadow Council on Central America, made up of European politicians and church men, issued a statement in Luxembourg calling for a permanent European Contadora support group and European "contributions" where there was danger of Central American confrontation.

East bans mail bearing West German refugee stamp

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Three Soviet bloc countries so far - and possibly more to come - have told their postmen not to deliver any letters or packages from West Germany which carry a certain commemorative stamp.

The stamp, which will be issued here today for internal and external use, celebrates the 40th anniversary of what the West German Government regards as the integration, into what were then the Western zones of Occupied Germany, of the many millions of refugees and people expelled from the German-speaking areas of the East.

This integration was one of the triumphs of post-war West Germany. Unlike the economic miracle, it has been relatively unmentioned in other countries. This is probably because, of all the people wandering and suffering in the Europe of 1945, the Germans were the ones least likely to arouse sympathy then

or now, especially since many of them had only recently themselves been oppressors, or supporters of oppression. Also, the more vocal of them have since formed themselves into organizations in West Germany which can easily be depicted as "revanchist".

But perhaps 47 million people - equal to the present population of East Germany - were successfully integrated into the truncated and impoverished Germany of 1945. Many were old, young or sick. Jobs were found for the able-bodied ones as result of the Economic Miracle, which can now be seen to have started with Dr Erhard's currency reform of 1948. About two million of them never reached the Economic Miracle. That is the figure for the number said to have died, or been murdered, on the way westwards.

In the newspapers, speeches, and television programmes of the Eastern bloc however, the refugees are constantly depicted



The stamp carrying the words "40 years of integration of German refugees from their homeland". It shows the German national colours of red, black and gold against a background of grey and brown - the design symbolizing the full integration.

as plotting to seize back the eastern territories aided by "reactionary circles" in West Germany. These circles, de-

pending on the Communist countries' relations with Bonn at any given moment, are sometimes presented as embracing the Federal Government itself. The reality is that very few of the refugees - if such they can be called 40 years later - have much to do with the West German refugee organizations. But the standard wisdom is that they form a "voting block". So the Christian Democrats feel it necessary from time to time to conciliate them.

The three Eastern countries already rejecting the stamp are Poland, East Germany and Bulgaria.

Czechoslovakia, from whose Sudetenland came one of the largest expelled groups, has not so far deployed its postmen against the invading stamp. But it is assumed here that it may find a way to do so. Czechoslovakia's difficulty is that no one of any consequence in the history of federal Germany has ever suggested that the Sudeten-

land, which was ceded to the Third Reich by the Munich Agreement of 1938, should become part of Germany again.

The federal Government's position on the once-German territories which now lie in Poland is more complicated and easily open to East European propaganda. It is that West Germany lays no claim to the territories and recognizes all existing national frontiers in Europe, but that Bonn cannot commit the government of any future unified Germany to that view because it has no legal powers to do so.

On a less rarefied level, spokesmen for East European Communist governments here say that the West Germans are issuing the stamp in November, two weeks before the deadline for Christmas mail to the East, just to make them look unseasonal by banning it. The advice of the West German Post Office is that the stamp should be used only for mail internally and to the West.

Scientists deny Bhopal cyanide gas claim

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

India's leading medical research organization responded to allegations that cyanide was responsible for deaths in the Bhopal gas disaster with a statement that many of the victims had not died of cyanide poisoning and deaths resulting from a leak of methyl isocyanate could not be ruled out.

The *Observer* said on Sunday that 2,500 people had died because cyanide gas had not been identified earlier. Union Carbide, owner of the Bhopal plant, says that only methyl isocyanate leaked from the plant despite evidence of some cyanide poisoning.

The Indian Council of Medical Research said it had never stated that methyl isocyanate was not involved and denied withholding information which could have aided the treatment of victims. However it said the "possibility" of cyanide being involved was being examined.

The council had recommended treating the Bhopal victims with sodium thiosulphate, the antidote to cyanide poisoning. It was suggested after hundreds of post mortem examinations of victims which had disclosed the cherry red colour of their blood and caused mild poisoning by doctors performing the examinations.

Dr V. Ramalingaswamy, Director-General of the council, said: "There is no specific antidote against methyl isocyanate and since the evidence pointed towards cyanide we did not want to wait until final proof was obtained."

Mr Misra, head of the medicine department at Bhopal's Hamidia Hospital, has refuted the council's findings. Union Carbide also maintains no other gas leaked besides methyl isocyanate.



Mr Lapienis: wrote about life in a labour camp.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

USSR: Vladas Lapienis

By Caroline Moorehead

An economist, aged 79, repeatedly in trouble with the authorities for his outspoken views, is serving a new four-year sentence for his memoirs of life inside a Soviet labour camp.

Vladas Lapienis, a Lithuanian from the town of Vilnius, is in poor health and friends fear he may not survive his time in a camp.

Mr Lapienis was first arrested in 1976 and charged with duplicating and disseminating the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, a leading samizdat journal, for which he received a five-year prison sentence. Not long after his release, he was again arrested and taken to Vilnius KGB Isolation Prison, the authorities having confiscated his handwritten *Memoirs of a Soviet Prisoner*.

That was in February, 1984. In prison, Mr Lapienis' health began to deteriorate and he was released, the KGB keeping his internal passport and forbidding him to leave Vilnius.

Less than a year later, after posters showing his photograph and the words "Wanted Criminal" appeared at railway stations, Mr Lapienis once again was arrested, having made his way to Kaunas, about 60 miles west of Vilnius, in search of medical treatment for a suppurating leg wound. He has been held since then.

Harvest shortfall forces Sudan to launch world famine appeal

From Gill Lusk, Khartoum

Sudan will soon launch an international appeal for funds to buy food to avert famine in drought-stricken areas in the coming year, it was confirmed yesterday.

This first official confirmation that the famine in Sudan is far from over came at a meeting of relief workers and potential donors in Khartoum, under the auspices of the United Nations emergency relief operation in Sudan.

Hopes that the drought emergency might be over were crushed when the rains failed in those parts of the country already hardest hit by the 1984 drought: northern Darfur, northern Kordofan and the Red Sea Hills. In many other areas that received reasonable rainfall, this year's crop has been destroyed by pests, or farmers were too weak to plant and weed their fields.

"We estimate that four million people are still in need of food aid for next year," the Finance Minister, Mr Awad Abdul Majed, told *The Times*. "We should pool resources that should be available from the international community to buy local grain."

Estimates vary of the amount of grain that will be available on the home market or that will be needed to feed the starving. The Government puts requirements at 725,000 tonnes of sorghum, the main local staple cereal, while four international voluntary agencies last month asked

for 400,000 tonnes, a figure they now report should be almost 50 per cent higher in the light of the harvest still coming in. The UN body prefers a more conservative estimate of 380,000 tonnes.

The arguments over figures are reminiscent of squabbles at the same time last year, when donors spent precious weeks debating whether 300 or 400 grammes per day of grain was an accurate assessment of minimum needs. In the event, few people received even this tiny amount, due to transport delays.

Many now fear that the 1986 relief food will arrive even later than this year's. "This time last year, grain was on its way to Sudan," said Mr Chris Eldridge, who headed the Save the Children Fund relief operation in Darfur and is now in charge of the agency's Sudan office. "Right now, there's nothing on the table: no cash and no grain actually promised."

Voluntary agencies feel that donors have been misled by earlier talk of good rains and the promise of a grain surplus in the country as a whole, and have been extremely reluctant to put their hands in their pockets for further aid.

The problem is to get the grain out of the hands of the rich mechanized farmers who have produced this year's crop in Kassala province and into the mouths of destitute subsistence farmers and nomads.



One of 19 rare Père David deer, restored to the breed's original habitat by the Marquess of Tavistock (above), bolting through a gate at Nanbaizi, the old imperial hunting park, near Peking.

The deer were saved from extinction by the eleventh Duke of Bedford (the Marquess's great-grandfather) before they died out in China about 1900 (Mary Lee writes).

Another three will go to Shanghai Zoo. All were returned to China at the expense of the Marquess.

Japan's whisky upsets EEC

From David Watts, Tokyo

The European Economic Community yesterday released a two-volume study on wine and liquor exports to Japan which documents "heavy discrimination" against imported wine and whisky.

European wine and whisky suffers from discrimination in both classification and levels of taxation. Tax on imported scotch is equivalent to 41 times that on top-grade domestic distilled shochu and twice that on first grade domestic whisky. The EEC says Japanese whisky

could not be legally classified as such anywhere else in the world, so high is the content of industrial alcohol.

Wine sold as "Japanese wine," often with a well-known German or French brand name, is largely composed of imported bulk European, Bulgarian or Argentinian wine. Rates of duty on bottled wines are up to 9.3 times those on bulk wines.

The EEC is calling on the Japanese to change their tax system on alcoholic drinks to one based solely on the

percentage of alcoholic content. The Japanese Government coincidentally released a report yesterday on commission margins on imported products taken by importers, wholesalers and retailers.

Seventy per cent of the price of imported whisky went to such middlemen, the report said.

SEOUL: EEC and South Korean officials will begin two days of talks here today on trade and economic co-operation (Reuter reports).

Socialists keep to the left in France

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The Socialist Party remains resolutely left-wing, despite recent pointers that there might have been a shift towards centre. This is the message to come out of the party's gruelling national congress, held over the weekend to draw up legislative and regional election lists for the general elections next March and to define campaign strategy.

M. Lionel Jospin, the party secretary, and M. Michel Rocard, former Minister of Agriculture, who appear for the moment to have settled their differences, set the scene for the reinforcement of the party's Socialist credo.

"The right," said M. Jospin, "is more right-wing than ever and we must be no less left-wing." "We have dusted off our Socialist banner," said Mr Rocard. "Now is the moment to lift it high."

This united, and truly Socialist, front has not been easy to achieve. Last August, serious differences of opinion between M. Jospin and M. Rocard over Socialism's aims, led the latter to present a separate motion at the party congress in October.

At the congress it was, in fact, the Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius, whose rousing speech carried the day. "Now M. Fabius's more pragmatic form of Socialism seems to have been pushed aside. This new rallying cry for a 'new look Socialism' is in answer to the right-wing parties' accent on curbing immigration and full-scale denationalization if they win the March elections."

For both sides the key questions of unemployment, the economy and immigration will figure largely in their election campaigns.

The introduction of proportional representation has necessitated drawing up new lists for each voting district. The trick lies in satisfying the demands of local Socialists in each district while protecting the interests of important Socialist Party figures.

The four main Socialist Party factions have been taken care of. The Rocardians have declared themselves pleased with their 28 candidates and women Socialists have obtained 9 per cent of the total places, having mounted a mini-demonstration at the party conference to ensure their interests were not overlooked.

A senior White House official told me in Washington last week that the chance of an arms control deal with the Soviet Union would be practically all unless considerable progress was made on the regional conflicts that particularly concerned the United States in Afghanistan, Africa and Central America.

He would not specify whether the United States had to be satisfied with assurances on all these areas. It was rather a matter of the Soviet attitude revealed in the discussions.

This was not a return to the doctrine of diplomatic linkage in the sense of offering the Soviet Union a certainty of reward in return for particular concessions. But, speaking with unusual emphasis, he was at pains to make it clear that agreement on regional issues was a necessary condition for progress in other fields.

The US has decided to harden its line

This went much further than Mr Reagan had gone in his United Nations speech last month. While emphasizing the importance of regional issues, the President did not declare that Mr Gorbachev would have to satisfy the United States on these questions before there could be an arms control settlement. Clearly, the Administration has decided to harden its line.

There is both a substantive and a tactical reason for doing so. But the President and his advisers will have to be careful that they do not fall into a trap of their own making.

The substantive reason is that the prospects for arms control will inevitably be influenced by the degree of confidence between the two sides. That confidence is in turn bound to be affected by Soviet behaviour around the world.

If it were to be announced, for example, that Soviet forces were being withdrawn from Afghanistan, that would naturally incline Mr Reagan to share Mrs Thatcher's belief that Mr Gorbachev is a man with whom it is possible to do business. There is, therefore, a connection between regional issues and disarmament, whether or not this is openly acknowledged by either government.

The tactical reason for the United States toughening its position is that it will not be able to bring legitimate pressure to bear upon the Soviet Union unless it takes a strong line before Mr Reagan sits down with Mr Gorbachev.

As on any negotiations, the Soviet leader needs to be given to consider his response. For Mr Reagan to be more demanding at The Summit than Mr Gorbachev had been led to

Kremlin sets bold income targets

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin has published details of an ambitious economic plan to raise the per capita income of the Soviet people by more than half by the turn of the century.

Details of the draft plan, which will be presented to the 27th Communist Party Congress next February, have been released by the official news agency Tass. They are seen as a key element in the drive by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to revive the sluggish economy.

The programme for the next five-year period, to 1990, would increase per capita income by between 13-15 per cent, and by 60 and 80 per cent by the year 2000.

Western diplomats remain sceptical that many of the targets, especially the longer-term ones, can be achieved, given the economic inertia and the obstacles imposed by Soviet bureaucracy.

According to the draft plan, production of non-food consumer goods is set to grow by between 80 and 90 per cent and services by 110 to 130 per cent.

By 1990 nearly every family must be provided with its own flat or private house. At present, flat-sharing is common.

The continuing diversion of resources to the huge defence budget was revealed in the section which acknowledged that the deteriorating international situation had obliged the Soviet Union to make "additional efforts" to maintain its defences.

The planners set a target of 280 million to 255 million tonnes for annual grain production, despite the failure of recent grain harvests to come near those figures. The pay of workers on collective farms was to be raised by more than that of workers in shops and offices.

The enormous problems facing Mr Gorbachev in improving the lot of the average consumer were highlighted recently in the trade union paper *Trud*, which sent out 30 journalists nationwide to discover why fewer vegetables are reaching the shops this year than in 1984, despite increased production.

The paper dismissed claims by a senior official that the weather was mainly to blame. It cited dismally poor transport as one reason for the latest round of shortages.

Geoffrey Smith

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

expect would be a recipe for disaster and recriminations.

This is the time to make sure that neither the Soviet Union nor Western public opinion has any illusions. This consideration seems to have been in the forefront of the Administration's mind last week when the impression was being conveyed in Washington that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, had been disappointed by his visit to Moscow.

The talks may have been tough, but can hardly have expected Mr Gorbachev to start making serious concessions before getting to the summit.

There would, however, be a double risk if the United States were to go so far as to make the solution of regional problems an absolute condition for a disarmament agreement.

Excuse for ducking the issue

This would probably be interpreted by international opinion, especially in Europe, as an excuse for ducking the issue of arms control. It would also suggest that the Reagan Administration was failing to put arms control in proper perspective.

Disarmament must not be seen as a concession for Mr Gorbachev. Any settlement which confers a one-sided advantage upon the Soviet Union would not be worth having. But an agreement that would be of at least equal benefit to the West should not in the final analysis be rejected because other problems remained outstanding.

Arms control should be respected as a subject in its own right. To say that the prospect will be affected by regional problems is no more than the truth. But the United States should be careful to leave it at that. A wise negotiator does not put handcuffs on his own wrists to impress his opponents.

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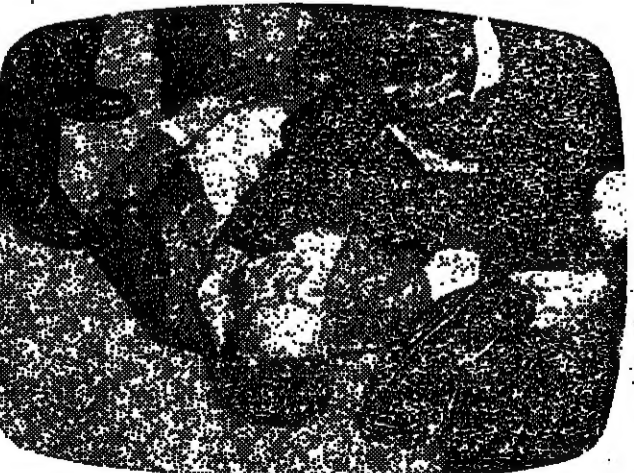
And they'd be talking about dramas in which they'd



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Christopher Walker
Moscow

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resources of the Soviet
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Geoffrey
Smith

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THE ARTS

Concerts

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RPO/Previn
Festival Hall

Both leader and conductor look beautifully pleased with themselves on the front cover of their new free programmes. It would be a pity if the new-found confidence and morale which the Royal Philharmonic have been showing under the musical directorship of André Previn were to be too quickly dissipated in programming and interpretation as relatively flaccid as that on Sunday night.

The evening's central focus was the European premiere of *L'histoire d'un soldat*, a ballet in five scenes by the Massachusetts-based composer John Harbison. The second of his *Odyssey* ballets, it was composed for Previn and the Pittsburgh Symphony as part of the composer's residency with the orchestra, and it shows a bold hand and a keen ear for a colourful and characterful band. The five scenes (compare Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse* for subject matter) toy, in their more sharp-edged moments, with the burnished Tippet of *Prima*; the four short, emblem-

atic interludes make ritual gestures in the direction of Stravinsky.

The rest is comfortably dissonant, colourfully tonal and accessible to a fault. If the listener conscientiously follows the story, the translation from narrative to aural meaning is as instant as painting-by-numbers. If one listens to it as an orchestral suite, there is just too little substance to hold the attention. This *L'histoire* really does, I suspect, need the wordless, visual intermediary of dance to focus and embody its 30 minutes.

The evening's ballast was to be provided by Brahms's Violin Concerto. Itzhak Perlman's performance was a weighty performance, but heavy with reassurance rather than rediscovery. At worst, the lack of live ideas led to some fuzziness of ensemble. At best, in their tempo choices, their rounding of rhythmic contours and polishing of textural surfaces, Previn and Perlman between them made it seem as if they had played it and we had heard it just once too often.

Hilary Finch

Capricorn
Wigmore Hall

The publishing house of Josef Weinberger is celebrating its centenary in the best possible way: with a series of six concerts featuring much of its own material. And a mixed bag it is, as the chamber group Capricorn amply demonstrated in the fifth recital of the series on Sunday.

There was a distinctly sombre air to the first half of this event. In the Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara's impressive *Third String Quartet*, Op. 18, Third won a Camden Festival prize back in 1967, the overriding impression is of a deep melancholy manifested in expressive, dense counterpoints.

Seemingly equally dark in outlook is André Tchaikowsky's *Trio Nocturne*, Op. 6, a response to Hans Keller's assertion that piano and strings are incompatible. (Incidentally it was to the memory of Keller, who died last week, that this performance was

dedicated.) Tchaikowsky does not, though, achieve the disparity he intended to emphasize. The shared material and dovetailing of ideas works against the polarization of instrumental types, though the piece is beautifully crafted all the same.

The group's pianist, the excellent Julian Jacobson, also gave Wilfred Josephs's Second Piano Sonata, a gritty, commendably organic piece which, though dramatically explosive, seemed here to strive for little else but immediate effect. And we shall pass diplomatically over Malcolm Williamson's *Partita for viola* on themes by Walton, well though Susie Mészáros played it.

Finally, though, there was Franz Schmidt's G major Piano Quintet of 1926, which, while it might not be the most advanced music of its day, is nevertheless hard to surpass as an example of post-Brahmsian expressiveness. Splendidly committed performances all.

Stephen Pettitt

Opera

Cinderella

University of Warwick

Cambridge Opera Group, who have won golden opinions in recent years for their production of Britten's church parables and of the *Tales of Hoffmann*, have now taken a name more indicative of the kind of work they do: they are English Touring Opera, and their first offering under the new label is a cut-down version of Rossini's *Cinderella*, performed in English with a great deal of charm and vim.

As before with *Hoffmann*, Graham Vick has come up with a staging that is practicable for touring and yet also alive.

We are in a rather shoddy little circus, and this evokes groans that there have been a few too many operatic circuses of late, then it ought to be pointed out that this production was originally mounted for Scottish Opera. Go Round in January 1981, well before such things as the *WNO Carmen*.

Also the very willingness of the production is its own justification. The cast have apparently undergone training in gymnastics and juggling, but most of them are still not very good at their circus skills, which

matters not at all: they establish very quickly that easy-going rapport with their audience.

It perhaps matters a bit more that the singing should be a trifle insecure as well. Rossini is devilishly hard, as one becomes very fully aware. Still, Yvonne Howard moved forward in confidence as the opera continued, without losing her innocence and gentle warmth, and Stewart Buchanan showed off a nice smiling humorous style as Dandini.

There was, too, bright youthful tone from Harry Nicholls as the Prince, and some lovely singing from Colin Iveson as Alidoro. Margaret Perry, Maxine Symons and David Marsh all provided comic turns as the Magnifico family.

Jonathan Dove's skilful re-scoring for a dozen instrumentalists is excellently played under Simon Halsey: it is fascinating to hear Rossini as chamber music, and the version soon develops its own authenticity.

Altogether this is a pleasurable venture well worth a visit during the course of its lengthy tour. But bone up on the final chorus before you go.

Paul Griffiths

London debut

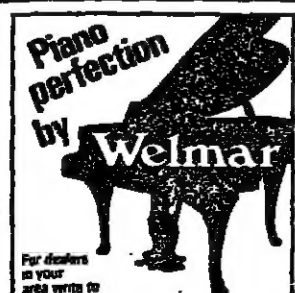
Arthur Janzen chose London's first real winter night for the *Winterreise* which marked his London debut. It was a courageous choice, and particularly so for a tenor, but it just failed to recreate the peculiar chill of Schubert's "shuddering" settings of Wilhelm Müller.

Janzen's tenor is light, well-groomed, and worn with great charm. But it was the grooming of which were primarily aware: the rhythmic exactness, the assiduous word-placing, the

calculated dotting of every "i" and "e", weakened the cycle's own impetus and seemed to shackle rather than liberate any overall interpretative concept Janzen might have had.

With a voice both agile and capable of sustaining the full weight of "Das Wirtshaus" and "Die Nebensonnen", Janzen needs to assimilate longer, dare more, but he is supported by more courageous playing than the sensitive but small-scale accompanying of Johannes Jensen.

Hilary Finch



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The innovative artist Kurt Schwitters
may seem to have many imitators, but
fifty years on his work remains inimitable
Organized spontaneityKurt Schwitters
TateR. B. Kitaj
Marlborough Fine ArtFrancis West
Edward Tottah

Though it would probably not be too good for artists to think so, in art there really does seem to be nothing new under the sun. For the creator, ignorance of recent art history may well be bliss since it enables him, in perfect innocence, to set about re-inventing the wheel, and if that would finally not be of much use to him, as least he may come up with some extraordinary trouvailles along the way. So if you know any art students, you had best warn them in the strongest possible terms against going to the large show of Kurt Schwitters at the Tate Gallery until January 5: they might find it too discouraging to discover that just about everything they think of as new and vital and different in the art of today was being done, and done superlatively, more than half a century ago.

To begin with, Schwitters was very importantly a conceptual artist. For him, as for so many figures connected with the Dada movement, the whole life-gesture was the most significant thing, then the idea behind the work, and then, often a poor third, the way the work was physically executed. A lot of the very early pieces, the mixtures of drawing and collage, have a rather attractive feeling of insouciance about how they are made and what they are made of - especially now, when many of the little bits of newspaper and poor-quality papers of other sorts are all yellow and brittle and on the point of crumbling away. But if the art-works were in a sense by-products of the central activity, which was no less than life itself, it is clear that Schwitters possessed, even unawares, enough of the artist's feeling for the redemption and transformation of physical reality into another order of being to give his work a lasting ability to charm, amuse, or even shock or horrify us.

Not, be it said, in the paintings proper. Schwitters seems never to have had any noticeable talent as a painter, and he wisely soon left the process far behind, only returning to it, over-hopefully, out of dire physical necessity in his later years of exile, in search of an honest penny or sensible piece of barter. (Quite rightly, these

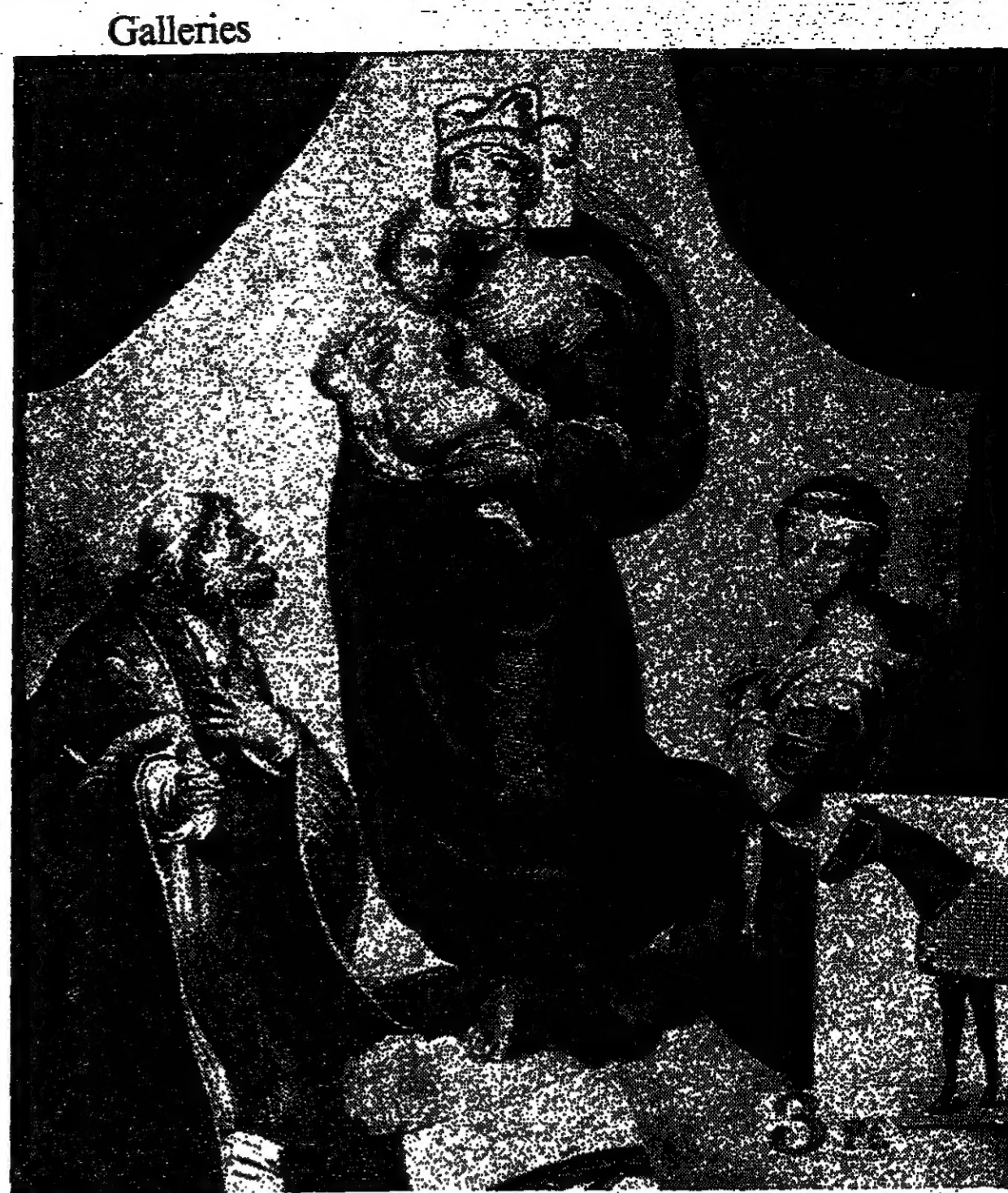
later portraits and landscapes have been excluded here, though I suppose that they too could be made modish to the sort of perverse taste which finds middle-period de Chirico the scene of his genius.) The relatively free-form early collages, with their confetti of small coloured papers, their odd emphatic word of phrase, have a true artistic instinct lacking in the paintings: if only Schwitters could have contrasted colours and textures as subtly in paint as in waste materials, his fortune would probably have been made.

However, he moved on in the direction of Constructivism, cutting out and pasting up his pieces of paper with a stricter sense of the straight line, a stronger feeling for the machine than for the organic. The fully sculptural constructions are often splendidly simple and alive; the wall-pieces, either two-dimensional or in low relief, have an extraordinary feeling of tight organization beneath their apparent spontaneity. And there it looks for a moment as though Schwitters might stick it is astonishing, for example, to see two pieces side-by-side, one dating from 1923 and the next from 1941-42, and really not be able to guess which is later, or indeed that there is any time-gap at all between them.

Despite his having anticipated so much in recent art, Schwitters remains *sui generis*, difficult to compare with anyone else, and an impossible act to follow. Perhaps it would not be so bad, after all, for the new art student to meet Schwitters, since all one could really aim to imitate in him is his own inimitability. In any case, knowledge in itself is not necessarily perilous; the poet rightly specifies that it is a little learning which is a dangerous thing.

R. B. Kitaj is a perfect example of the artist who has jumped triumphantly from innocence to experience without any noticeable period of hesitation in between. As the show of recent work at Marlborough Fine Art until December 20 amply demonstrates, Kitaj is learned in the ways of past artists, and in the ways of quite different arts, such as the film.

In the present show, which is nearly all of work completed in the last five years, one can sense immediately Kitaj's admiration for Degas, for Goya, or even here and there for his friend David Hockney - not to mention less apparent debts to Bassano, Balthus, Cézanne, Titian and others. Yet you would never be in any doubt that you are looking at Kitaj. The typical quality comes, if in any one place, in the breathtaking sureness with which stylistic elements are juxtaposed and apparent contradictions fused. Part of the painting may



Wenzel Kind (1921) - a collage showing Schwitters's lasting ability to charm

be deliberately coarse and rough-hewn, with harsh and garish colours; and right next door is draughtsmanship of the utmost grace and refinement, the most delicate and sensitive application of colour. And somehow they cohabit with ease. The subject-matter includes vivid portraits of friends, famous and obscure, and of Kitaj's own baby son; intricate theatrical reference in the studies for the Old Vic screen, film reference in *America (John Ford on his Death Bed)*, and mysterious grotesquery like the *Rock Garden (The Nation)* garnished with detached heads.

Kitaj shows here as a mature and successful artist, excitingly at the

height of his powers - the list of lenders (the Metropolitan, New York; the Tate, Cleveland, Museum of Art; the Norwegian National Gallery) tells its own story. Francis West, at 49 only four years younger than Kitaj, is actually only now having his first one-man West End show, at Edward Tottah until November 30. It is difficult to imagine why, except possibly an extremely retiring disposition. This is certainly one of the most striking debuts we have seen for some years: the style is formed, but not fixed, and it is all West's own, along with his subject-matter, which weaves strange and sometimes supernatural fantasies round his native

Scottish fishing village, or plucks symbolic moments from what might in other hands look like everyday life. I say the style is his own, and yet at first glance you could immediately find yourself thinking of German Expressionists like Heckel or Schmidt-Rottluff: similar intense non-realistic colours, similar strong outlines.

It is all about the inner subjective life, as the Expressionists would have it, rather than about the world outside. But then that is the way West sees the world, and who, faced with these odd, powerful images, would feel in any position to argue with him?

John Russell Taylor

Celebrating the singer as painter

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau continues to surprise us, and in surprising ways. As a master of the German *Lied*, he made one of his first important impressions on his British Army captors at the end of the 1939-1945 war: as the story goes, they detained him in a POW camp unusually long because of the song recitals he gladly presented.

To commemorate Fischer-Dieskau's 60th birthday this year, the Berlin Festival has not only sponsored four recitals (Schubert, Schumann, Mahler, Wolf) with the pianist Hartmut Holl in the Deutsche Oper Berlin but also organized an exhibition which shows, astonishingly, what Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau has done over the past 30 years, more or less in the closet, as a painter. Even more surprisingly, the pictures in this one-man show, in various media, provide solid evidence that one must take Fischer-Dieskau seriously not only as a singer, conductor, and musicologist but also as a painter. Thus far he has shied away from exhibiting for sale, but with Fischer-Dieskau, just as with Zurich's late psychoanalyst Fritz Morgenthau, the thought arises that he could probably have made a substantial career solely as a painter.

Not surprisingly, one finds in these pictures frequent references to the primary profession. Two of them bear titles evoking songs from Schubert's cycle "Die schöne Müllerin", although both of them concentrate less on the songs' poems than on the artist's psychological associations with them. "Sei unser Schweitzer nicht böse" consists largely of colourful abstract swirls, and "Wohin?" displays an avant-garde fillip in attaching a sort of canvas patch to the larger canvas.

Entering the exhibition at the Berlin Festival Gallery, one immediately encounters an overall range of bold, bright colours and a forceful, sometimes almost aggressive technique (broad brush, palette knife). One oil "Lied", obviously suggested by the opera which Arbert Reimann composed for Fischer-Dieskau and which he first performed at the Bavarian State Opera, dominates the show. Painted with broad, heavy strokes, it portrays an old man without eyes to see, but with other eyes, and symbols of eyes, all about him.

Fischer-Dieskau has done impressive portraits of fellow musicians, including his wife Julia Varady, the conductor Karl Böhm, and an especially striking acrylic portrayal of the great Soviet pianist Sviatoslav Richter. Fischer-Dieskau's occasional partner in recitals



Self-portrait, painted this year

and recordings - not to mention a rather sombre, brooding self-portrait.

Although this show bears the title "Pictures from Three Decades", Fischer-Dieskau never exhibited anything at all until five years ago, when an art association in Bamberg, planning a show on the theme of duplex talents and gifts, persuasively approached the retiring artist - with such startling results that the show ultimately bore the subtitle "from E. T. A. Hoffmann to Dietrich Fischer-

Dieskau". Then, only two years ago, five cities in Japan gave the singer his first one-man show as a painter.

If a few weaker items in the current exhibit fall into the category of weekend sketching and painting, the stronger ones - the majority of the works exhibited - provide ample evidence that as a painter, and not only as a musician, the astonishing Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau commands our serious attention and respect.

Paul Moor

Television

Curious case of national history

A man in a leather jacket appears on a throbbing motorbike. Over the traffic's roar we hear, incongruously, Wordsworth's poem on daffodils. It is our first sighting of Starkey and Hunch - Dr Starkey's lunch being that the image we have of England prior to the industrial revolution is wrong. It is at least a novel way of beginning a history series.

Once he had discarded his leathers, Dr Starkey, an historian from the London School of Economics, turned out to have the diphthongs and the looks of Roy Strong. His four-partner on the development of England's society and countryside is based on an "original idea" (sic) by him and his executive producer and called *This Land of England* (Channel 4).

In the opening programme this idea seemed very simplistic. Namely that far from being a bucolic, peaceful stable land England has always been in a state of constant change. To prove this devastating theory, Starkey visited three different levels of society. First, Broughton Castle, home for 21 generations of Fienes. It was, he argued, only through good luck and good management, that the present owner and his silent wife - silent except for the odd "indeed" - still lived there. The history of their family's tenure at Broughton was not, as we might think, one of unqualified calm but of "one long crisis". An early Fienes, whispered Starkey in the cellar, had his head cut off and his naked body dragged at the tail of a horse. A

later one was a Regency rake who had drunk himself "in quantities awful to behold". An even later one had been so fond of horses he had to sell off 4,000 acres, put his daughters out to grass and retire to Reading. By now one had begun to wonder if this showed signs of Starkey's hunch or a problem best kept to the family.

Coming down a peg, we next visited the Shropshire parish and backwater of Myddle. Sitting in church with the assembled village and taking as his text Richard Gough's *History of Myddle* (1701), Starkey enterprisingly used the pews - where everyone's seating reflected their financial status - to illustrate the village's social mobility over a given period. There was a slight air of the

binge hall as the congregation enacted 50 years of change in as many seconds. Whether they were original descendants or not remained unclear, but it was an atmospheric way of showing history at work.

The final stop was a family of farmers in the Lake District who had worked the land for centuries. They too, albeit slowly, had undergone considerable change. "Nowhere", concluded Starkey, "have we found what we expected". He was speaking for himself but it was the manner of what he said rather than the content which was unexpected, and therefore appealing.

Nicholas Shakespeare

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SPECTRUM

The search for universal truth



Astronomical stars: (from left) Hipparchos at Alexandria; Ptolemy; Tycho Brahe; and Galileo presenting his telescope to the Venetian senate

During the past few millennia remarkable discoveries have changed our perception of the universe and, recently, have promised to explain its origin. To mark National Astronomy Week DAVID WHITEHOUSE retraces the forces and individuals that helped to shape our understanding and put our species little by little into its cosmic context.

Behind each of us there are 40,000 past generations, most having spent the nights of their short lives huddled around blazing campfires for warmth and protection. Sometimes they would gaze beyond the flames at the lights in the sky, wonder what they were and tell stories about them.

Sophisticated ideas emerged. The Kung bushmen of the Kalahari desert believed the Milky Way was the backbone of night and without it fragments of darkness would come crashing down.

The ancient world is full of monuments and temples dedicated to the sky: at Stonehenge, Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Chichen Itza in Mexico.

The sky is a great calendar and each civilization had its interpretations of the way some stars rose before or set just after the Sun, at times and positions that varied with the seasons.

It was the Greeks who first thought seriously about the nature of the universe. Around 500BC, on the Mediterranean island of Ionia, a society grew up that believed that stars were very far away and that the Earth went around the Sun, insights that were to lay buried by the philosophy of Aristotle for 2,000 years.

Aristotle, in his book *On the Heavens*, wrote that the spherical Earth was at the centre of the universe with all things revolving round it and with everything beyond the Moon perfect and unchanging.

This became one of the most successful theories of all times, fettering human sources for two millennia.

The strength of Aristotle's astronomy lay in its common sense. The Sun, Moon and stars do seem to revolve around a fixed earth. It became apparent, however, that the motions of the planets were not the required perfect circle and it was left to Claudius Ptolemy in the second century AD to make them compatible with circular motion. Ptolemy was deeply influenced by Hipparchos, the greatest astronomical observer of antiquity, who had lived nearly three centuries earlier.

Working from the libraries at Alexandria, Ptolemy devised an ingenious system of 39 circular orbits that explained the motion of the Sun, Moon and the known planets as seen from the fixed Earth.

The dark ages overwhelmed Western civilization, the library of Alexandria was burnt and untold treasures lost for ever. This slumber lasted 1,000 years, but not all Greek thought was lost. Some texts were preserved by Arab scholars and in the 12th and 13th centuries the thoughts of a long dead civilization changed the world.

With the liberation of the libraries at Toledo and Cordoba Greek thought exploded into Europe. With the founding of universities came a revival of interest in the Cosmos. The end was in sight for Aristotle's Earth-centred universe though it was hundreds of years in dying, with traumatic consequences.

It is said that Nicholas Copernicus died in 1543 without seeing the book he had written which was to wrench the Earth from the centre of creation. Rather than removing a relatively minor defect from Ptolemy's system, the Polish Catholic priest managed to demote the Earth to just one of the planets.

In 1572 a new star appeared in the sky and was seen by a Danish astronomer. The precise and meticulous research by Tycho Brahe showed this celestial interloper lay beyond the Moon. The sky was no longer unchanging perfection - Aristotle's universe was crumbling. In the year that Johann Kepler, the last of the great astronomer-astrologers, published his first two laws of planetary motion, Galileo pointed a crude "optic tube" towards the sky from a lonely tower in Italy.

Battle was joined. Galileo saw the phases of Venus, the moons of Jupiter, spots on the Sun and craters on the Moon. The Church reacted by persecuting Galileo and banning Copernicus's book, but it was too late. The century between the death of Copernicus in 1543 and the death of Galileo in 1642 changed everything.

In the year that Galileo died Isaac Newton, the Englishman who was to produce a mathematical description of the planets' motions, was born. Galileo supplied observations that proved the Earth went round the Sun and Newton explained it. But Newton's laws of gravity could be applied to the entire universe and, for a while at least, led to the idea of a mechanistic universe - an intricate machine wound up by the Creator himself.

For the next two centuries the

universe was considered a collection of stars with a void beyond it. Then it was realized that some of the so-called "spiral nebulae" seen in the sky were in reality distant star systems similar to our own galaxy.

The story of discovery then shifts to a mule train hauling equipment to the top of a mountain just outside Los Angeles, early this century when the large telescopes, destined to discover the expansion of the universe, were being built. Among the mule teams at Mount Wilson was Milton Humason, a young mule driver, gambler and pool player. He was to become one of the best observers.

After the First World War he was joined by flamboyant Edwin Hubble. In the 1920s they found that light from distant galaxies was subtly altered or displaced slightly towards the red end of the spectrum. Their explanation was that the galaxies were receding, and the universe was expanding, leading to the startling conclusion that the universe had been born in an explosion, what we now call the "big bang".

There was, however, something wrong in the theory - the time scales did not fit and there were some stars that seemed older than the universe's expansion. This dilemma led to a counter-proposal by Thomas Gold.

Herman Bondi and Fred Hoyle of the Steady State theory. With reflections of Aristotle they proposed that as individual galaxies died and receded they were replaced, and the more the universe changed the more it stayed the same.

Despite the stellar time-scale problem being resolved the Steady State theory lingered on until 1964 when the echo of creation was detected. Two astronomers using a radio-telescope in New Jersey picked up a steady radio hiss coming from the sky which they called the Cosmic Radiation. Although pale compared with its original intensity, it does come from an era less than a million years after the "big bang" when the universe was a thousand times smaller than it is now.

It seems clear that our universe had its origins in a violent event some 17,000 million years ago.

About a billion years after the creation, clouds of gas formed into great lumbering, spinning masses. They became smaller as gravity drew them tighter and eventually they turned into a hundred billion points of light.

We believe young stars are surrounded by debris, material left over from star formation which become planets. Until recently we

were not sure if there were planets circling other stars hidden only by the enormous distance of space. There are now indications that planetary systems may be commonplace.

Deep in a star's interior, nuclear reactions occur at temperatures of millions of degrees. These reactions have two consequences. They liberate starlight and make elements such as oxygen, carbon and iron, the same materials from which we and our planet are made.

Because of recent discoveries we are on the verge of the most remarkable discovery of all time - the theory of the entire universe. The clue came from the strange laws that govern the behaviour of the atom and its construction.

These laws were discovered earlier this century and revolutionized our understanding of the cosmos. When considering atoms and sub-atomic particles common sense becomes prejudiced and our very conception of existence is challenged. Events can occur without cause, and matter can appear from nowhere.

So it seemed did the universe. Some scientists believe that the universe created itself naturally and followed the laws of physics to produce all the order and structure we see above us. Some go further still and talk of a universe created with 11 dimensions in which all the forces and matter are explained by a single, elegant theory.

We do not yet know the fate of the universe but there are two equally bleak possibilities. Either the universe will expand for ever with dying stars and fading galaxies spread ever thinner throughout space, or it will collapse. The cosmic expansion will slow down, stop and be followed by collapse with the violent "big bang" re-enacted in 30 to 40 billion years' time.

Every ancient culture had its creation myth, so do we, but ours is fashioned by science. It seems that given certain laws everything else follows. But although the laws of science may explain the universe we still have to explain the laws of science. Where did they come from? As Alice said in Wonderland: "Curiouser and curiouser".

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TOMORROW

Modern morality part two - have women become more demanding?

The police drama that's real life

TV's 'Crimewatch' walks a tightrope between fighting crime and exploiting it. writes Rodney Tyler

On Thursday Detective Superintendent Malcolm Hughes of Avon and Somerset police will admit on television that he is getting nowhere with an inquiry into the brutal murder in Bristol of 62-year-old Violet Milson, killed for the sake of £30.

Detective Chief Inspector Geoff Short of Derbyshire will confess he is baffled by a violent bank robbery in the peaceful village of Cromford, near Macclesfield. And Detective Sergeant Geoff Hunt of the Metropolitan Police will say he is stuck with his inquiries into a gang that strap bombs on to wages guards to make their colleagues hand over money.

All three, like many senior detectives, have turned to the BBC's *Crimewatch* as a last resort, hoping that with nearly a quarter of the adult population of the country watching, somebody somewhere will have seen something or know someone.

In its relatively short life, *Crimewatch* has built an enviable reputation for solving crimes, but there are those who worry that it has done so at the expense of pandering to a morbid fascination and, in making the subject exciting and interesting, may be promoting the evil it is trying to fight.

Those worries are felt most in the *Crimewatch* office itself, where there is something of a tightrope quality to the relationship between the police and the BBC.

An example of this was a recent programme containing a reconstruction of a building society robbery. It was a brilliant and gripping piece of television. The moment when the criminal produced the shotgun with the viewer looking straight up both barrels, as the Abbey National assistant manager had done, was so dramatic that the officer in charge of the case admitted to having jumped in fright at the first showing.

Within minutes of the film going out hundreds of callers were ringing in. Though their information has not yet led to the arrest of the criminal, it has caused several other major crimes to be cleared up, including one substantial international fraud.

There is a risk of frightening people silly.

Everyone at *Crimewatch* is delighted that their efforts are bearing fruit, but doubts remain. See Cook the presenter was worried that for all the brilliance of the reconstruction, which might well have shocked many people into remembering something, or others into turning in the criminal, it might also have taught three or four

hooligans exactly how to terrify the living daylight out of someone with access to large amounts of money.

Peter Chaffer, the programme's editor, feels that three safeguards are necessary. First that the programme makers should neither mislead the public, nor be misled by the police. If the police, as they sometimes do, are using the programme to lay a red herring the producers must know.

Second, the BBC must not be seen to be telling the public what the police want; it should provide them with a platform to tell the public themselves.

Third, and most crucially, it must manage to be entertaining enough for people to want to watch, without glorifying in the gore.

It is around the last point that most of the debate within the offices rages. "If the programme were boring we would get few viewers," says Chaffer. "But, go the other way, as we have done once or twice in the past, and we are equally open to criticism."

We think very hard before showing attacks on old people

BBC figures on the *Crimewatch* audience reveal how important is the tightrope act. The programme has been surpassed in the ratings only by *Coronation Street* in some months.

But its viewers are not the supine slaves of the soap operas. A survey is done each month (and the results kept quiet) which shows the Appreciation Index, the active interest viewers take.

On a percentage scale *Crimewatch* regularly scores in the high 80s to *Coronation Street*'s mid-70s.

It is thus the size and involvement of the audience that makes the ethos of *Crimewatch* significant. The producer, Sam Orpin, says: "We live in a society where fear of crime has outstripped the real danger of it, particularly with old people. So not only do we run the risk of imitative crime... we run the risk of frightening people silly. Yet the problem is that we have evidence which shows that even implied violence can shock people into 'shopping' acquaintances."

The three senior detectives taking part in Thursday's programme have high hopes of solving their crimes as a result of the 3,000 or so calls that will come in. *Crimewatch* has an arrest rate so far of about three people per programme.

But the questions of the boundaries between real life and fantasy remain; perhaps no more forcibly than in the mind of the actor Steve Hodson. So convincingly did he play a building society robber and so closely did he resemble him, that despite a warning by the police some people telephoned to name him as the crook. Fortunately, he had an alibi.

Crimewatch is on BBC1 on Thursday at 9.25pm.

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Making conservation a moving spirit

A new project aims to combine religious and ecological school studies. Tony Samstag reports

It is said that at a recent meeting of the World Wildlife Fund its President, The Duke of Edinburgh, proposed a "pilgrimage" from St Peter's Basilica to Assisi next year to celebrate the Fund's 25th anniversary. A declaration of some kind would crown the proceedings. The spirit of St Francis would rejoice; a new theology of conservation would be born.

Whether the pilgrimage comes to pass remains to be seen. But, in the meantime, educationists are much taken with a project launched by WWF this year to combine conservation, cultural and religious studies in schools.

It is a bold undertaking, dedicated to the proposition that the religion we grow up with - or, indeed, out of - powerfully affects the way we perceive and treat the natural world: that the genesis of

religions, in fact, may lie in man's habitat and the demands it makes on him.

The WWF's textbook, *Worlds of Difference*, looks at the beliefs of Australian aborigines, Chinese Christians, Hindus, Humanists, Jews, Muslims and the Yanomamo Sanema Indians of the Amazon rainforest. Teachers have a guide of their own, for the juxtaposition of comparative religion and natural history is likely to be as new to them as to their pupils.

The Jains of India, who wear masks so that they will not breathe in any tiny creatures and who have the paths ahead of them swept before they walk to avoid treading on insects, are surprisingly absent from the book although the point is well

made that the Hindu "cycle of life" leads logically to a reverence for anything remotely animal, and the concept of stewardship over the natural world known as "dharma".

WWF's tactic is cunning here, leading the pupil via the "sacred cow" syndrome to what conservationists for years have been describing as the hamburger connection: the destruction of rainforests in South America is often to ranch cattle that are then slaughtered and sold to the North American fast-food chains.

The early capitalist Protestant ethic, of course, is that the natural world was created for man to exploit, as by divine right. The slag-heaps and the dark satanic mills, generating

the gross pollution we are still enduring, were the cathedrals of that ethic.

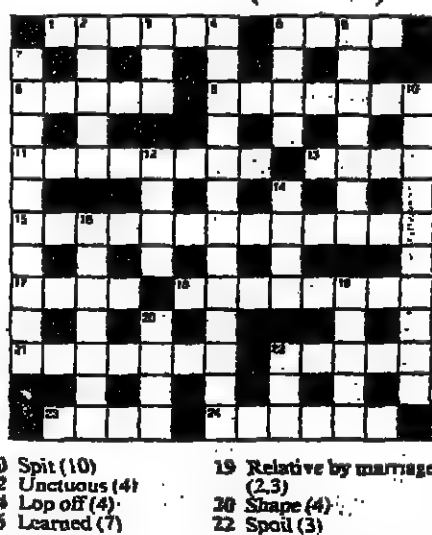
The last word properly belongs to, or at least with, the Sanema Indians of the Amazon, who believe they were made from trees and that their first teacher was a giant snake. "The idea that the world of nature is a living and powerful force, created by ancestors and inhabited by spirits, runs throughout Sanema stories. Dependence upon and respect for the forest lie at the heart of these stories," says the WWF textbook.

"Unfortunately, the balance which they have with the forest and its life is now under threat. Oxidizers are coming to the forest. They are cutting down so many trees that the forest cannot recover."

This, then, is the way a world ends. Not with a bang but a hamburger.

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23 Rudimentary form (4)
24 Cunning (6)
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3 Groove (3)
4 Casualness (13)
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12 Unctuous (4)
14 Lop off (4)
16 Learned (7)



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• **The President, Frederick, Maine.**

In another move in the generation game, Harrods have revamped their Younger Set department. The Young Designer Room, opened last week, offers the up-market British designer names making news in the 1980s: Sheridan Barnett, Wendy Dagworthy, Paul Costelloe, Arabella Pollen and John McIntyre. The dark sophisticated decor is illuminated by the designer names, computer-set in lights.

Down the road at Harvey Nichols, the design-conscious store is also bidding for a new generation of account customers, with their youth-directed Zone department. ...Like some of the best upper-crust London town houses, Harvey Nichols has turned over its basement to the teenagers who can run riot in a cavern of style that includes concessions for Benetton and French Connection, as well as young designers from home and abroad. It is all served up in a way that should appeal to the young shopper by offering (to both sexes) the velvets of their grandparents' style - and without putting off Mummy.

In Paris, Jean Paul Gauthier showed his clothes spilling out of a trunk and worn as though they had been thrown together — the contents of grandmother's wardrobe — as if taken straight from the London streets where day-for-night clothes in pinné and crushed velvet have swung back into fashion.

The purest examples of ancestral style are the real things, glowing dusky green, old gold and magenta in the Gallery of Antique Costumes and textiles in north London.

Swags of velvet, damask curtains, cushions, at auction, cushions and fabric hangings, genuine Fortuny dresses and cases of beaded and embroidered accessories, all add up to a splendid collection.

The big stores, like the ancestral country houses, have to work to pass their goodies from one generation to the next. The children of the 1960s generation are now being wooed by Way In at Harrods, the youth emporium on the fourth floor that was born 18 years ago at the height of those swinging sixties.

Now Barbara Deighton, Divisional Manager of the fourth floor at Harrods, has set out to capture the creative energy and madcap mix of the next generation using the style leaders of young London, including Mark and Syrie Gregory Davis, the original printers of English Eccentrics and the more established Strawberry Studio.

The original moody blue décor, a monument to sixties-style, has been transformed by Hungarian-born designer Eva Jiricka. She has filleted the metal bones of High Tech, but kept a sense of space and movement, using mobile shop units on wheels that can be rearranged to suit the fast pace of fashion in the 1980s. Corrugated metal tracks the ceiling and perforated aluminium pierces display units. Against them, the plush velvets, colourful separates and cos-

...down the road at Harvey Nichols, the design-conscious store is also bidding for a new generation of account customers, with their youth-directed Zone department. ...Like some of the best upstarts, Harvey Nichols causes Harvey Nichols has turned over its basement to the teenagers who can run riot in a cavern of style that includes concessions for Benetton and French Connection, as well as young designers from home and abroad. ...It is served up in a way that should appeal to the young shopper by offering (to both sexes) the velvets of their grandparents' style - and without putting off Mummy.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Liberal seer

The Liberal Party is soon to lose one of its most prominent peers to the church and the crossbenches. Although he insists that "nothing has been finalized", I understand that Lord Beaumont of Whitley, a former Liberal Party chairman and president, is to become parish priest of the Barn Church, North Sheen, and St. Luke's, Richmond. Lord Beaumont was ordained in 1953, served as a vicar in Hong Kong, and resigned his orders in 1974 because he found politics and religion did not mix. Now, however, having helped in the party's revival, he tells me he has "been called to do other things". He has clearly been preparing for the break. Over the last two years he has grown a long grey beard, counselling colleagues frequently to liken him to "an old testament prophet".

© Neil Kinnock clearly attaches considerable importance to the attack on Militant he will make at tonight's Fabian rally. In order to deliver it, he has turned down an invitation to a state dinner at Buckingham Palace for the Amir of Qatar.

Leaderless

The executive of the Conservative associations' national union meets on Thursday to consider the new constitution for the right-wing Federation of Conservative Students, which it ordered to be drawn up after its riotous conference at Loughborough last Easter. It should think twice before rubber-stamping it. The two FCS officers who helped draw up the document have cunningly omitted any mention of the existing post of honorary life patron. This, of course, continues to be held by Edward Heath, even though the Loughborough conference voted overwhelmingly to depose him.

Not here

The only guest to return their complimentary tickets to tonight's opening of Ned Sherin's *Sloane Ranger Revue* at the Duchess Theatre? The ever-faithful chronicler of real life Sloanes, Betty Kenward, editor of Jennifer's Diary in *Harpers and Queen*. Although she pleads a prior engagement, Sherin speculates: "She probably thought she couldn't get her hair-don't through the Duchess's swing doors."

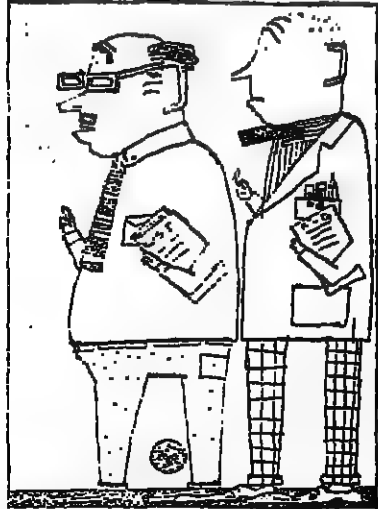
Hall of horrors

Not everyone had their heads down working for London at the GLC this morning. Politicians and staff walking down the corridor at County Hall were startled to discover two council officers hurling foul abuse at each other in full public view. They were more amazed still when the row turned into a violent brawl that sent passers-by scurrying for cover. Now Labour councillor Tony Judge, who witnessed the "disgraceful disturbance", has been assured that a full investigation into the incident is under way and that disciplinary action will follow.

Cover story

Once more Mirror Group headquarters is agog with rumour. Will dismissal notices hang over all Captain Bob's 6,000 London staff unless drastic reductions are achieved. Jo Foley and Mike Taylor, respectively numbers three and four on *The Mirror*, were whisked up to the seventh floor at Holborn Circus 10 days ago and have barely been sighted since. The official line is that they are working on a project for editor-in-chief Mike Molloy connected with *The Mirror's* eventual switch to colour printing. Taylor will say only that they are working on "forward planning". The rumour among those threatened with dismissal is that they are preparing dummy copies of a new *Mirror* to replace the old one when Maxwell shuts it down.

BARRY FANTONI



"OK, Mr President, from the top: Mikhail Gorbachev, Johnny Carson, Abraham Lincoln..."

Sea-change

An inside source at the National Maritime Museum tells me that one of the applicants for the job of director is Max Hebditch, head of the Museum of London. And he is apparently favourite to land it. Yesterday the current incumbent, Dr Neil Cossons, who was in on last week's "sift" - Civil Service parlance for shortlisting - told me: "There are five good front-runners. I have known Max for 25 years and would not like to put him in an embarrassing position." Hebditch, who has been head of the Museum of London for eight years, refused to comment.

PHS

Everybody is tiptoeing about, avoiding mention of the real reason for the recent wave of criticisms of our jury system, or to be exact of the right of each defendant in a criminal trial to challenge three jurors without showing cause. No ever since I got my wooden leg, I have been unable to tiptoe, and it therefore falls to me to blunder into the argument and point out, at the risk of being hit over the head with a pantomime sausage by the Attorney-General, that the demands for an end to the right of peremptory challenge by the defence in a jury trial, and the referral by the Home Secretary of the said demands to the Crown Prosecution Service for a careful, exhaustive, scrupulously impartial study leading to a ringing declaration that the right should be abolished, are based solely on the belief held by many persons, some of them frightfully important, that the servicemen in the Cyprus "spy trial", all of whom were acquitted after the defence had stood down a substantial number of jurors, should have been convicted. (Well, it would have been tidier, you see, and better value for money.)

That, I think, makes matters clear, but lest I should be thought to have no more knowledge of reality than a judge, I had better fill in the blanks before I go any further. Defence counsel in recent trials have increasingly used their peremptory challenges (pooling them where there are a number of defendants) in order to rid the jury of respectable-looking people who might be thought to favour the upholding of law and order.

Counsel have instead sought to fill juries with anything up to 12 fugitives from a chain-gang; any male juror who has plainly not shaved for three days is sure to win acceptance, particularly if he has no tie and soup-stains on his jersey, and a lady who looks as though she is on the stroll will be no less eagerly welcomed, as will any juror, of either sex, under 19 years of age, while one who has difficulty in reading even the shorter words of the oath will almost certainly be appointed foreman, if not invited to take silk immediately and join the defence team of lawyers.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Jury challenges: no case to answer, M'Lud

This undeniably poses a problem, and the contours of it were recently mapped by a very remarkable and valuable feature by Iain Walker in the *Mail on Sunday* - a model of what newspapers can and should do - which describes this process at work in the Cyprus secret trial itself. The *Mail* reporters counted the challenges, noted the appearance of those challenged, described the jurors who replaced them without demur from the defence, discussed the background to these events, and left the readers to draw their own inevitably disquieting conclusions.

It is argued that if juries are to be selected only from those whose brothers have recently been fitted up by over-zealous peelers in West Bromwich, and who will bring in a verdict of not guilty even if the defendants are Bluebeard, Count Dracula, Dennis Nilsen and Pontius Pilate, the cause of justice will ultimately suffer. But to this claim there are two answers, each of which seems to me conclusive. First, the prosecution also has the right of peremptory challenge, and not just three shies per coconut; they, unlike the defence, can go on challenging until the jury box is full of archdeacons, presidents of the Royal Academy, headmasters of Gordonstoun and members in good standing of the Worshipful Company of Cat-o'-nine-tails Makers. Second, I have never been able to see any objection to some appropriate version of the American system of *voir dire*, in which the potential jurors may be questioned on oath, by either side, to expose any potential bias, and challenged in the ordinary way on the basis of their answers. It is true that in recent years the

advantage in criminal trials has tilted sharply towards the defence, though it can be argued that since it had previously been tilted the other way for much longer, that is only as it should be. But whatever the arguments over the conviction rate, I find the increasing pressures on the jury system, of which this particular criticism constitutes only the latest of many, alarming and even sinister. For I have always believed, and will die maintaining it, that the jury system, despite all its imperfections, is one of the pillars that hold up not only our legal system but the very essence of our democracy.

The jury is indeed the only democratic element in the law, depending as it does on the principle that every accused person has the right to be tried by his peers, and that the jury, subject to a few obvious safeguards, must be chosen at random. I think that to remove that element, the lay barrier that separates the defendant from the court, would lead to catastrophe. It is absolutely essential that the common man, who is the substance of our political democracy, should have his place also in our judicial process, to introduce the element of the ordinary mind, applying ordinary common sense, in determining the facts. Lawyers, for all their protestations ("Members of the jury, we are all men of the world, are we not?"), can see only the trees of the law; there must be somebody in court who can see the wood.

And the importance of the jury grows greater, not less, as time passes. When a judge can rule that the policies of the state are the policies of the government in power,

as the judge in the Poynting case did, it is necessary that there should be somebody in the court to stand up to him, as the jury did in the *Meery Griffin-Jones* trial. The Most Excellent Assessor of the Year. What a parliamentary committee goes collectively off its head and demands legislation against drug-sellers of a nature that Herod would have blanched at, it is necessary that a jury should be lurking in the wings when the legislation is passed, in case this country should find itself with a legal system exhibiting all the moderation, understanding and humility of Miss Janet Fookes, MP. When the Master of the Rolls wants to abolish the jury in complicated fraud cases - because the jurors cannot be expected to understand the details (a desire which will deprive of breath for quite a long time anyone who has ever seen an eminent QC enter a court without the faintest idea of what the case he is involved in is about), and the Lord Chief Justice wants to dispense with juries in criminal cases where nothing very serious is alleged, it is time to insist that leaving the law to the lawyers and the judging to the judges would be to break down a dyke that for centuries has prevented the sterile waters of law from drowning the rich soil of humanity, mercy and even-handed justice.

I am willing to strike a bargain. When a High Court judge, summing up in a criminal trial involving a very serious charge (perhaps a particularly brutal gang-murder), says to the jury: "Please remember, as I speak, that I am fully as fallible as you, with prejudices and biases that I find it very difficult to recognize, let alone confront, and am furthermore conditioned by years upon this bench to believe obvious nonsense though it is, that the law is not a human artefact but something as eternal and immutable as the principles of geometry," why then, I shall be willing to reconsider my own belief that if we dispense with the jury we shall in time dispense also with freedom, and indeed with law as well.

I can wait.

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Digby Anderson

The most tainted funds of all

Last week Sara Keays published her account of her affair with Cecil Parkinson, *A Question of Judgment*. According to one newspaper, "few involved escape (the author's) wrath". Fleeing Street is guilty of "intolerable lies" and journalists who approached her were "rightful men". Yet Miss Keays concluded a deal with this street of a thousand "intolerable lies", selling her book's highlights to *The Mirror* for a large sum. She did this not for revenge but to set the record straight and make "the facts available to my daughter". I am out of touch with the latest fashions in mothering, but a 307-page book seems a cumbersome way for a parent to communicate with a child. Will the infant have instalments read to her in bed? Or must she wait till she has learnt to read herself? Will this become the accepted way for mothers to teach their young?

What Miss Keays does not explain is how she felt able to take money from the press, an institution she holds in such low regard. She is obviously not a progressive person. A progressive person would not do such a thing. Thus, last week, Professor Hilary Rose of Bradford University returned money granted her for research into women and alcoholism. It came from a tainted source, the Health Promotion Trust, supported by the tobacco industry. She was urged by many "health activists" and "professionals" to reject it. The research was urgent, "a major social issue", but must yield to "the just struggle against the tobacco industry" in "advanced capitalist countries".

That's the progressive principle: however laudable the object of spending in research or welfare, take no money from tainted sources. Thus *Social Work Today* reports that the NSPCC is "very sad" that the NSPCC is to receive a substantial sum to spend on children in severe need. Why? The money is offered by a body supported by the fur trade. Again, at a recent meeting organized by the Tate Gallery, some artists refused to accept money from bodies with interests in armaments sales.

The list of industries which the modern progressive person disapproves of is very long. No truly progressive person will accept funding from the food industry (at least that part of it producing and selling splendid normal food such as eggs, meat, confectionery or butter); from brewers, distillers and wine sellers; from advertisers who deceive the masses; farmers who destroy little animals' nests; car manufacturers, personally responsible for road deaths; the City, responsible for all evil; any company which does not satisfy contemporary progressive demands on employment of women, ethnic minorities, the provision of fire escapes, and South Africa, Chile, Turkey and Grenada; anyone using any power except coal mined from an exhausted pit; any company which has funded any other institution the progressive person dislikes, notably the Tory party, or which has any interest, however remote, in arms; any manufacturer of any pharmaceuticals and medicines except acupuncture needles, any multinational and

above all any enterprise which makes a profit.

The list gets longer every day. Friends of the Earth has started a campaign against furniture retailers who sell tables and chairs incorporating woods such as mahogany which come from allegedly threatened tropical forests.

Retailers, mind. The progressive principle has adapted and perfected the Catholic doctrine of secondary relics: just as something became a secondary holy relic through contact with a primary, so a source of funds is tainted if it has been "involved" with primary tainted sources. Thou shalt not receive funds from organizations supported in any way by companies which have had anything to do with other companies supplied by a firm whose dispatch clerk operates a computerized order system using a VDU watched from a chair which gives inefficient lumbar support.

At first sight, this is excellent news for non-progressives (any companies embarrassed by mounting piles of funds refused by progressive persons should have no hesitation in approaching the author). In fact most progressive persons in research or welfare bodies have never used much private funding anyway. The progressive's godmother, the profiteer source of salaries and funds, is the government.

Professor Rose explains that she went first to the state and that she then turned to the Department of Health and Social Security ought to have funded her project. Here is the poster for the progressive conscience (and lest the progressives forget to pose it themselves, you might remind them when they peer at the label on the grapes or the chair legs): the government they take so much money from is the Thatcher government which they castigate as the supreme evil. Repressive, fascist, it grinds the faces of the poor, is totally without compassion for the unemployed, the inner cities. It is a part of a warmongering international capitalist complex threatening nuclear destruction, callously indifferent to mice and mahogany trees, and the prime supporter of South Africa.

How can the progressive person bring him or herself to accept funds from such a monster? How could it be right to help such a regime gain respectability through association with progressive research or welfare? All parts of this government, however apparently innocent, are subject to its heartless monetarist centre. However well one could use funds from it, they should be rejected as part of the "just struggle" against Thatcherism.

There you are. A new campaign for the progressives: sanctions against Thatcherism: sign and resign. "We will accept no more funds, no more salaries and no more wages from the Thatcher government". I can see the letter in *The Times*, followed by the signatures of professional poverty lobbyists, race relations bureaucrats, peace professors and tenured progressive social scientists. Or can it?

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

moreover... Miles Kington

Richer Beeb - with added lines

The BBC has spent a lot of money in the last year refurbishing the entrance to Broadcasting House, that huge wedge of Stilton which you can see looking north from Oxford Circus. But quite wisely it has not touched the traditional elements of the entrance, such as the heavy doors which are so massive you can hardly open them unaided, especially with a double bass.

Not have they tampered with the behaviour of both the three or four uniformed doormen just inside the entrance, called doormen no doubt because they have never been seen to help anyone with the doors, not even people struggling through with double basses.

(One of these doormen once challenged me at the entrance. Had I got an entry card, he wanted to know. No, I hadn't. Then you can't come in! he said triumphantly. I'm not coming in, I said. I'm going out, because I've been in for four hours already. Who let you in? he wanted to know. Fred, I said mysteriously. He has looked worried ever since.)

But last week I stumbled across something so traditional in the BBC foyer that I too have been worried ever since. At the BBC Publications Shop there I bought two videos and a tape, and asked the saleswoman if the receipt was valid for a VAT claim.

"Well, not really," she said. "You see, the BBC hasn't been able to afford to replace the cash register, so the date printed on the receipt is November 1976."

I looked. It was. I also noticed that the BBC had no VAT number printed on the receipt.

"No, well, we do actually have a VAT number but they haven't got round to printing it on the receipts yet. If you want to have a proper VAT receipt, you'll have to make an appointment to see a young lady in our offices in Marylebone High Street, and she can do one for you."

If this is the way BBC Publications normally do business, I'm surprised they ever sell anything. But please don't write me off as a BBC-knocker, because I can see that this is just another symptom of the BBC's frantic lack of money.

I was once so concerned about the BBC's poverty that in the days when the TV licence was £46, I sent off a cheque for £50 to the licence place in Bristol and asked them to keep the extra £4. They sent it back to me, explaining that they had no machine

ery for accepting donations. I sent it back, insisting they kept it. They sent it back, suggesting I send it to the BBC's Director-General, man by the name of A. A. Milne, they thought.

Well, finally I have come up with an idea which will help the BBC out of all its troubles. I have thought of a way of having advertising on TV without having commercial breaks. All you do is incorporate the advertising directly into the programme. You have a piece of drama, dialogue, for example, which goes like this:

"Did anyone call while I was out?"

"Only your mistress. She sounds far too young for you."

When you sell advertising space, it becomes this:

"Did anyone call while I was out?"

"Yes, Beaufort Double-Glazing. Their service sounded so reasonable that I've asked one of their men to call round."

"Well done! Anyone else?"

"Only your mistress. She sounds far too young..."

The BBC might also sell anti-advertising, from a rival of Beaufort's, for instance. Then the extract would sound like this:

"Did anyone call while I was out?"

"The engineer called to look at the window put in by that ghastly Beaufort firm. He couldn't imagine why we had used such a cowboy outfit. Anyway, he's promised to put it right."

"Well done! Anyone else?"

"Of course, there is no reason why the BBC should not tamper with classic texts, if the money's right."

"Is this a dagger that I see before me?"

Made of good hand-crafted Sheffield steel.

The whole so light and yet so strong as well..."

Or perhaps...

"How was China?"

"Very big."

"And Peterborough?"

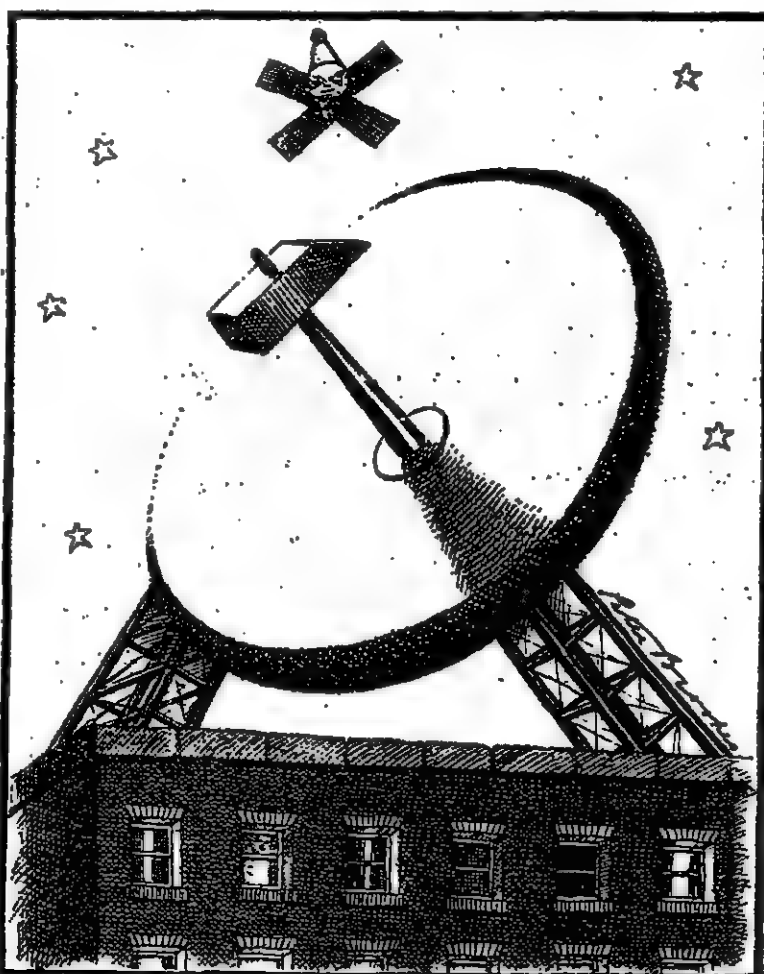
"Very pretty. Peterborough, yet full of exciting industries and so close to the major network of motorways too."

If the BBC is interested in the idea, it has only to get in touch with me. Perhaps it could let me know its VAT number at the same time.

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Start of the other star wars

Roger Boyes on the threat posed to the Eastern bloc by a technology it cannot control



Novotrade of Budapest is the first communist enterprise to sell video games to Europe and America.

There is a hunger for uncensored film. By western standards some of this is pretty innocuous. Milos Forman's film *Amadeus* is considered a hot property in Prague and church videos - now a very common phenomenon - can draw a full house in Poland. But the challenge to the censor is usually more explicit. A film of the funeral of Popieluszko, recorded by Solidarity cameramen who flaunted equipment bearing the sticker "Independent Poland Productions", is shown regularly in churches.

The underground produce documentaries - interviews with people who claim to have been abducted or beaten in the Torun area, the more politically sensitive of the Pope's sermons - and have started work on a feature film about internment

under martial law. They also make scores of copies of banned films such as *The Interrogation* by Ryszard Bugajski. Other films on the Solidarity video circuit include Tom Stoppard's *Squaring the Circle*, *Gorky Park* and an execrable American TV series film called *Gulas*.

There have been raids during private film shows in Prague but on the whole the police can do little. In Bulgaria the problem is not one of a dissident opposition but of uncontrolled access to the minds of the young. The many Turks who cross Bulgaria, in transit from the West can make a few leva by distributing violent or pornographic films to black market cassette dealers. The Bulgarian press recently described confiscated merchandise as "the most despicable video tapes, produced by private and illegal firms which shot their masterpieces in basements and bordellos between

Istanbul and Calcutta". It is difficult to imagine a better way of exciting the interest of young Bulgarians.

The fundamental problem is how information should flow in a closed society. Technical progress entails political risk, especially in systems where power is partly based on control of information.

In computers this is only just becoming visible. Some Polish dissidents use word processors to print out *samizdat* material. Underground pamphlets, even books, are sometimes put on to floppy discs, smuggled into Poland, then printed at the press of a button. More playfully, there is even an underground video game called Zomo in which a riot policeman chases a Solidarity supporter through a maze of streets. And what if teenage "hackers" start to break the computer codes of Warsaw Pact defence ministries?

Czechoslovak dissidents say the video cassette could become as important in the next decade to the political opposition as the Xerox machine was in the past two. There are some 5,000 privately-owned video recorders in Czechoslovakia, about 40,000 in Hungary, 10,000 in Bulgaria and an astonishing 150,000 in Poland. The numbers are growing but they are still overwhelmingly the playthings of the richer intelligentsia. It only takes one, however, to transform a small community.

The black market in dish antennae in western Poland points to the next high-tech hazard for Eastern Europe. When satellite television takes off it will be difficult, if not impossible to jam. The nightmare of the communist authorities is that the Americans will start to produce made-for-communism programmes and openly compete with domestic programming. Even if the satellite networks confine themselves to life-at-the-top soap operas like *Dynasty* and *Dallas* they will lure a large slice of East European viewers.

Communist television chiefs are already adjusting to this threat by trying to make their own offerings more entertaining. East German television, which already has to compete with West German programmes, has virtually depoliticized its channels, presenting a steady flow of old but good films. Polish television is at the moment preparing a television epic of *Lace* and is considering showing the titillating film *Emanuelle*.

The race to close the high tech gap has thus become something of a Keystone Cops affair, with East and West competing for the hapless audiences behind an increasingly porous iron curtain.

British films see a return of the ready

Visitors to London's South Bank from this week should prepare to meet a surfeit of people wearing bemused expressions. They will be cinema-lovers flocking to the London Film Festival, and savouring an unfamiliar bout of optimism.

The British film business has enjoyed a merry-go-round of revivals and crises throughout the 1980s. Only a year ago, with the government pulling out its support for the National Film Finance Corporation and cutting the Eady levy on cinema attendances, the industry was once again being written in and around Wardour Street. Happily, they were premature.

British cinema does still have its problems: Goldcrest, which once held the role of most promising newcomer film production company, has stumbled into serious financial trouble, and Thorn-EMI is looking to a management buyout of its film arm.

Elsewhere, however, the industry is exhibiting signs of new-found health, and nowhere more so than in the cinema stalls. After a fall in audiences from 1.2 billion in 1983 to

54 million last year, 1985 is sure to register a rise in audiences - and it is likely to be a hefty one, to around 70 million.

The main cinema companies, Thorn-EMI (ABC), Rank (Odeon) and Cannon (Classic), are spending £1 million a month on improving their houses. They are newcomers to the market such as Basil Leitch and the US chain American Multi-Cinema are also planning to build multi-screen cinemas that will include other attractions such as shops, bars and restaurants.

The production field has had a lively year, as the high proportion of British films at the London Film Festival testifies. There will be the premiere of *A Zed & Two Noughts*, Peter Greenaway's first film since the London debut of *Stephen Frears's My Beautiful Laundrette*, the appearance of *Defence of the Realm*, directed by David Drury, and an American version of David Hare's *Plenty*.

Much of the credit for the revival must be given to the British Film Year campaign, run by an unlikely and unusually single-minded group

ing of industry interests which came together amid much scepticism. In London, where cinema attendances have always been relatively healthy, its activities have largely been confined to persuading Alan Bates, Charlton Heston, John Mills, Anna Neagle and Omar Sharif to place their handprints in cement in Leicester Square.

Londoners tend to take it for granted that stars are on permanent call to be interviewed at the National Film Theatre. In the provinces, where much of the campaign to promote cinema-going has been concentrated, attitudes are less blasé, as Stuart found at a crowded appearance in Lincoln. He was approached by two elderly ladies and asked: "May we mob you?"

The campaign's educational side has taken study papers into 3,270 colleges and schools. Its organizers hope it has put the cinema back in the curriculum permanently.

Even before the campaign was launched, in May, cinema admissions had begun to increase. The poor weather also played its part. In the past, the credit for any rise in

David Hewson
Arts Correspondent



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.
Telephone: 01-837 1234

OPENING THE BAR

Indications that the Bar is at long last considering amending its rules to allow barristers to appear in formal or unopposed High Court cases without the expensive company of a solicitor or his clerk, comes as good news to all those interested in streamlining the legal system. This "barrister alone" principle may be extended down into Magistrates Courts and foreign arbitrations is again welcome news for the consumer. The fact that it will merely regularise what is already common practice in Magistrates Courts should not deter the Bar. Council from extending the principle into as many situations as possible.

Such reform, however, is only piecemeal. While allowing barristers to dispense with the services of a solicitor, it carefully retains the Bar's monopoly over rights of audience in the higher courts and it is likely to infuriate the Law Society and other relations between barristers and solicitors. Both branches of the profession must make concessions in order to open up the legal profession to people who have, up till now, been unable to afford the luxury of going to court. If barristers are to be allowed direct access to clients in certain circumstances, and accountants are to be given the right to seek advice from the Tax Bar without having to go through a solicitor, the Bar should allow solicitors extended rights of audience in the Crown Court, in particular the right to do guilty pleas, a recommendation which was defeated by only the narrowest of majorities when it was considered by the Royal Commission on Legal Services in 1979.

Tripartite discussions between the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Law Society and the Bar Council are about to take place over what are "formal or unopposed" matters in the High Court and how best to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission in allowing solicitors limited rights of audience in the High Court. The time is certainly ripe for a full scale review of the more anachronistic and expensive restrictive practices of the legal profession, in particular the Bar's Code of

Conduct - one of the most inhibiting and inflexible books of rules ever written for a professional body.

If the Bar does not set about putting its own house in order, the Office of Fair Trading, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the Lord Chancellor's Department in its review of civil procedure will sooner or later blow the whistle on the game.

As a first step, the Bar should at least match the medical profession and allow clients direct access to specialist counsel after initial referral by a solicitor. Solicitors would no longer be obliged to attend conferences in every case or act as expensive and frustrating intermediaries on all subsequent occasions unless the client felt it absolutely necessary or the barrister was anxious to have the solicitor present.

As a gesture of good faith the Bar could well revise the rule that solicitors, clerks and expert witnesses must travel up to London to see a barrister even when it would be cheaper and more practical for the barrister to travel down to see the solicitor and client in the solicitor's office. With three or four people on average sharing a room in Common Law or Criminal cases of Chambers, such a move might even go some way to help solve the overcrowding problem at the Bar.

A gentle wind of change is at last beginning to waft through the Inns of Court. Major changes in the Bar's Code of Conduct, a relaxing of its iron grip on the higher courts and the right to advertise within sensible limits, will all help to make the legal profession less expensive and better equipped to deal with the client of the Twentieth Century. With the introduction of time costing, and binding contracts between barristers and their clients, plus useful savings in other areas, the Bar might discover that such reforms are as much in its own interests, in helping to increase legal aid fees and obtain prompt payment of bills, as in the public's interest in keeping legal costs to a minimum.

MISS BHUTTO'S DILEMMA

For more than eight years the political life of Pakistan has been a struggle between the country's ruling armed forces and its ousted generation of civilian politicians. A single image conveys the power of both: General Zia-ul-Haq for the army and Miss Benazir Bhutto for the political parties. In March when the general launched his civilianisation of army rule the greatest challenge to his ambitions came from Miss Bhutto's People's Party. In August, when she returned home to bury her younger brother the general's regime placed her under arrest. Her release last week does not signal a respite in this rivalry; it coincides with the start of a fresh round in the old fight.

At the heart of the renewed struggle is the question of what the future holds for the still-banned political parties. For almost a decade they have steadfastly opposed army rule. Quite possibly in so doing they have the tacit support of a majority of their countrymen. Yet the military regime has survived and as 1985 draws to a close it seems likely to pull off its experiment with partial democracy.

In the new order that the general is creating there was originally no room for political parties. Under pressure he has since relented. Last week Miss Bhutto returned to exile the army spelled out its conditions for admitting the parties. Under the terms of a draft bill legitimizing them they will have to register, accept the "ideology" of Pakistan, elect their officials and submit their accounts before legalization. Although such requirements could be open to abuse they are not in themselves necessarily objectionable. Not

so, however, the other stipulations, under which a registered party could be banned if it failed to expel a member who spoke or acted against the state ideology, against morality or the maintenance of public order, against the integrity or independence of the judiciary and, most ominously of all, who "defames or brings into ridicule" the judiciary or the armed forces.

It is unlikely that as the bill stands it will entice any of the political parties to participate in the general's new system. If that is all he has to offer them they will probably choose to continue their struggle from outside. But, it is equally certain that the general's present Parliament, which has shown itself to be less subservient to his dictates than he perhaps intended, will also not accept the bill as it is. In that event it is possible that a compromise could be achieved which may offer more favourable terms to the parties. That could put them in a predicament.

If they did register, it would be tantamount to recognition of the general's regime. If they did not register there could be many in the opposition ranks, including members of the People's Party, who would break away. Frustrated after what they see as years of fruitless opposition with little real chance of stopping the general from outside they may opt to oppose him from within. An added boon would be the spoils of power and office.

So General Zia now has the power to put the political parties on the defensive. In so doing, he would not incur any real costs. Indeed, by splitting the politicians there would be something real to be gained.

Plant institute's loss

From Mrs Joan Green

Sir, On Tuesday the Agricultural and Food Research Council (AFRC) announced its Forward Plan. This plan seeks to present Government cuts in spending on agricultural research as a dynamic reorganization of the AFRC.

In this plan the Plant Breeding Institute, as an integrated research establishment, will probably disappear. Staff here do not know how this will occur; it appears that there will be some form of partial privatization of the directly profitable plant-breeding work, which will be severed from the remaining work, which may in turn be split between different "super institutes". Which ever way it happens a unique interaction between scientific endeavour and its application will be lost to the nation.

The poor application of pure

science to practical production is constantly cited as a failure in the British economy. This institute is a shining example of how to weld pure science to its practical application.

The results are plain to see, with three Queen's Awards to Industry and millions of pounds in benefit to the British economy each year. At the same time the scientific reputation of the institute has burgeoned. The institute that is, apparently, to be destroyed is the result of 72 years of evolving interaction between practical plant breeding and an expanding range of scientific disciplines. Recently genetic manipulation has been expanded at the institute and some of the world's leading scientists in this field are either employed here or come as visiting workers.

The future should hold exciting prospects for the application of their research within the world's leading plant-breeding institute at the same

Advantages of a black economy

From Dr Colin L. A. Leakey

Sir, Putting the spotlight on the black economy (Spectrum, October 28, 29) has been long overdue. The International Labour Organization in 1980 pointed out that in many European countries clandestine employment not only needed full investigation, but clearly had some economic advantages for development entrepreneurs.

Sarah Hogg is surely quite right that we would do well to avoid paranoia and recognize that the unrecorded economy is nevertheless a significant part of the real economy. Since, in this country, we don't openly approve of illegality, we should be considering legislation to legalise activities which may be beneficial to regenerating the economy.

The extent of the black economy is far broader than activities motivated by tax avoidance. The use of money for the purpose of aiding the free exchange of goods and services between willing providers and receivers is being challenged. This is a criticism of money itself. Barter of services between pensioners on the domestic scale, and counter-trading between nations are aspects of the same disenchantment with money as a facilitator of exchange.

As with other developments in society, it may be more valuable to examine the causes of change, and to react positively to them, than to try to suppress them.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN L. A. LEAKEY.
The Close,
15 Cambridge Road,
Girton,
Cambridge.
October 30.

Houses for 'dumping'

From Mr Michael Sargeant

Sir, Professor Hall states in his article of October 24 that the controversy over the 8,000 houses which Mr Michael Heseltine, as Environment Secretary, wished to impose on Berkshire has been "resolved". Would that that were true.

The Berkshire County Structure Plan is now being revised and there is still a real risk that at least 4,000 houses will be dumped on Warfield and surrounding villages, despite the virtually unanimous opposition of local residents and the Bracknell District Council.

As a lifelong Conservative, I am relieved that the new ministers in the Department of the Environment appear to be paying some heed to the electoral consequences of endlessly giving in to the greed of the housebuilding lobby. If the Government want to keep our support, they have got to drop "Heseltown" (the local name for this unwanted development) altogether.

Yours faithfully,
M. SARGEANT, Chairman,
Warfield Parish Council,
The Willows,
Church Lane,
Warfield,
Bracknell,
Berkshire.
October 31.

Okehampton by-pass

From Miss Kate Ashbrook

Sir, In claiming that a northern route by-pass would take nine years to complete, compared with three for the Department of Transport's route south through the Dartmoor National Park (report, November 9), Mrs Lynda Chalker is ignoring the two independent experts who have confirmed that the northern route could be built by December, 1990 - only two years after the southern.

There is only one serious northern route and it was supported by the parliamentary committee. This route is very similar to that put forward by the department for public consultation. That consultation need not be repeated before a public inquiry, much preliminary work has already been done and, if the department wanted to minimise the delay, it could complete all the necessary procedures and start construction by spring, 1989.

Of the northern routes, this was favoured by the Landscape Advisory Committee. And the public inquiry inspector agreed that the landscape to the south was much more valuable.

The department's exhibition shows photographs of a stark northern route, devoid of the 70,000 trees promised for the southern route. Hardly a fair presentation.

Yours faithfully,
KATE ASHBROOK,
(Co-ordinator, Okehampton Crisis Committee),
The Open Spaces Society,
25A Bell Street,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.
November 8.

time adding a new dimension to the institute's future ability to provide a diversity of crop varieties for British agriculture.

Appeals for the survival of the PBI as an integrated organization have been made to ministers, individual MPs and members of the House of Lords with, despite considerable support, little apparent success.

Surely some way can be found to apply the tangible financial benefits of our work, plant variety royalties which go to the Treasury, to the survival of this institute. If an institute such as this is to be allowed to disappear what hope is there for the future of other areas of British science? Yours faithfully,
JOAN GREEN,
Plant Breeding Institute Section,
Plant Breeding Institute,
Trumpington, Cambridge.
October 31.

Quid pro quo in an Irish setting

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative) and others

Sir, It is widely reported that one feature of the proposals under discussion between the British and Irish governments is the appointment of a consultative council of ministers or officials who would be given some role in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

The justification for this would be the interest of the Republic of Ireland in the Northern Ireland minority community, many of whom are believed to wish for union with the Republic.

Such an intervention by a foreign country in the affairs of a province of the United Kingdom could only be acceptable, in our view, if it was matched by the appointment of a similar body of UK and Irish ministers to play a similar role in the affairs of the Republic.

Sanctions and S Africa

From Professor P. J. D. Wiles

Sir, Mr David Watt (feature, October 25) undoubtedly reckons that his opposition to sanctions against South Africa is based on hard-headed realism and British national self-interest. Many of the writers to your letters, column, whom, in all their variety, I shall not name, follow him. It is natural that neither they nor the British Government can be swayed by appeals to other moralities; so let me examine the sanctions issue on the basis of their own.

Racism is much more unpopular in the world than communism; even in this country somewhat more so. And racism in South Africa is something we can help to destroy (while against communism in Angola and Mozambique we are powerless). All the world can see we are doing virtually nothing against the evil we can affect. It doesn't matter what our Government's values are; this is how we are judged by others' values and these judgments are a diplomatic and military fact. Other people's morality is always a brute fact, and often a big one.

Among these judges is the African National Congress: beyond doubt, the ultimate government of South Africa. It is today in the position of the nascent MPLA and Frelimo in the late sixties: will the capitalist world help it or not?

We are giving ANC the same treatment as we gave MPLA and Frelimo. It will, of course, with full justification, turn to Moscow, and accept the price for arms: indoctrination. The success of its neighbours to east and west makes its choice

There are, after all, a very large number of citizens of the Republic who live in the UK, have jobs here, benefit from our social security and have the right to vote and stand for election to public office. They are here largely because of economic conditions in the Republic.

Whether there is a need for more than one consultative council would be a matter for consideration. We would welcome any arrangement based on reciprocity which moved towards the reunion of the British or, if it be preferred, Anglo-Celtic isles.

These, rather than the geopolitical, cultural and economic unit. We remain, your obedient servants,
JULIAN AMERY,
JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON,
IVOR STANBROOK,
House of Commons,
November 7.

more certain. Even its northern neighbour (Zimbabwe) is slipping in the same direction, after liberation.

Will sanctions work? They are wanted (now if not previously) by black people. For like other honourable people, indeed like Mr Watt, they are willing to suffer for their own liberation. Financial sanctions, recent events tell us, are quite effective. Moreover the big companies are doing their best to distance themselves from their government - a move only embryonic in the Portuguese case before 1974.

There is, after all, no necessary connection between apartheid and capitalism, indeed in so far as there is an ideology of capitalism it is utterly opposed to it. Specifically, a vein of discreet liberalism and non-discrimination has always run deep in South African capitalism. Can we not imagine the pressure these people will bring on their government when sanctions bite? Will they enter the Afrikaners' laager?

"There is no reason," writes Mr Watt, "given the elaborate precautions, why the economy should crack for years". Correct, the laager has been well prepared. But after these "years"? And if we add some Soviet weapons, channelled by land through friendly neighbours? And terrorism? And economic sabotage? And white emigration? Surely it is in our self-interest to be active during this interval.

History repeats itself, Sir, if people are stupid enough. Yours faithfully,
P. J. D. WILES,
London School of Economics & Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
October 28.

Use of riot pictures

From Sir Philip Knights

Sir, In their letter (November 2), Messrs Lidstone and Bevan sought to argue that if editors were obliged to surrender to police photographs taken at riot situations, Press photographers would be even more at risk than they appear to be at the moment.

Bearing in mind that such photographs are taken in order that they may be, and are, published, television, what greater risk would be run if the unpublished ones were equally made available to the police? Or is it being suggested that in some way rioters would regard the Press as "neutral" if they only take photographs as impartial observers of the scene, such photographs to be viewed only by an equally impartial society?

One would hope that all persons of good will, whatever their occupation, might be prepared to be "identified with the police in riot situations" and make available to them without any statutory requirement such evidence as they might have in their possession which would help the police to identify, isolate and prosecute those who commit such serious crimes as murder, arson, assault and robbery, whether the victims are police officers, Press photographers, sub-post masters or anyone else.

Should the maintenance of public order come to be regarded as a matter solely within the province of the police it will only serve to make their task even more difficult than it currently is.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. KNIGHTS,
11 Anningham Gardens,
Edgware,
Middlesex.
November 5.

From Mr Bernard Robertson

Sir, Messrs Bevan and Lidstone's letter (November 2) displays an extraordinary attitude. Lord Scarman reminds us that all citizens have a moral duty to help the police and, in the case of riot, a legal one.

Bevan and Lidstone have either forgotten this or detected some factor, concealed from me, which

relieves journalists of obligations imposed upon the rest of us.

On behalf of journalists they display the very attitude of which Bernard Levin complained last week. Somehow journalists are not part of "us" - they do not share in the general interest in bringing criminals to justice; indeed they are able to be "neutral" between criminality and justice.

Photographers are not assaulted because "they are identified with the police" (as if the police were some private interest group) but because they possess evidence which could be used by the police to convict criminals of acts often committed for private gain. The police want the photographs not in their own private interests but in the interests of society, the victims and justice.

Finally, I suspect this "neutrality" is a humbug. I do not remember these issues being raised on occasions when apparent police misconduct has been detected by Press or television pictures.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
BERNARD ROBERTSON,
Southcott House,
Clifton Gardens, W9.
November 3.

Great oaks at risk

From Mrs Celia Ward

Sir, I have just been informed by the Post Office that, since April, there has been a new regulation - that one may not pay sums smaller than £5 into a National Savings investment account.

Since the investment account pays interest gross, it is particularly useful to non-taxpayers, who are presumably people with low incomes, for example children. And people with low incomes are surely the very people who wish to save small amounts.

My son and daughter have had NS investment accounts for several years into which they have put small gifts and casual earnings, etc. The new regulation discourages such savings and seems to me a good way to drive customers elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
CELIA WARD,
13 Johnsons Drive,
Hampton,
Middlesex.
October 31.

Museum charges

From the Director of the Hampshire County Museums Service

Sir, Mr Hewson (report, November 5) has struck the first note of realism in the matter of marketing museum collections when he draws attention to the need for professionally trained commercial staff to fulfil this role.

Museum curators are trained professionals in their own right, dedicated to the subject in which they specialise. They are neither salesmen nor advertising executives. If they had wanted to go into "trade", they would not have gone into "art".

Cash return from service industry

From Mr Gerald Priestland

Sir, When is this Government going to live up to its ideals by privatising our most expensive public asset, the fighting services?

In the days of England's glory great men of property were proud to raise a regiment of horse or foot or a frigate. Why should not our modern grandees do the same - Sir Freddie Laker commission a squadron of bombing planes, Mr Tiny Rowland a regiment of native foot, Mr Edward Heath an amphibious assault craft? Outstanding contributions might be rewarded with a peerage.

Failing this, the services should at least be commercialised. If the BBC is to carry advertising, why not the Royal Air Force, whose aircraft could tow banners advertising British products across the skies of the world? The drab sides of our naval vessels should be brightened with "special offers" and their radio transmissions - eavesdropped, I understand, by unscrupulous foreigners - punctuated with "jingles".

Entire exercises could be sponsored by major companies and the Changing of the Guard be "brought to you" by patriotic banks or newspapers whose symbols could be featured on uniforms and equipment.

Besides relieving the Exchequer, all this would have the effect of convincing our rivals that it is in the market place, not the battlefield, that we wish to meet them. Yours faithfully,
GERALD PRIESTLAND,
4 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11.
November 7.

Ring the changes

From Mr David Trieman

Sir, In reporting (November 2) the changes in composition of the Burnham primary and secondary teachers' negotiating team, and in your editorial comment on that change (November 1), you draw no attention to one extraordinary feature.

There can be few areas of collective bargaining where the key figure on the employers' side can, by statutory right, vary the membership of the employees' team. The secretary of state, as a member of the employers' side, has that unfettered right.

I can understand that Sir Keith dislikes the militancy of the NUT because he plainly dislikes any challenge to his unbridled authority. To allow him to express his displeasure by direct interference with the other side in negotiations must be perverse in ethical and industrial relations terms.

As a union which he has summarily removed from the Burnham primary and secondary committee - not at the request of any other union involved - we may comment from what will become a distance. These manoeuvres on Sir Keith's part are among the causes of bitter resentment among school-teachers. Whether any union stands to gain or lose by his decisions, everyone can recognise the fact that he is, once again, moving the goalposts.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TRIEMAN,
National Negotiating Secretary,
National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1.
November 6.

Return of the marbles

From Professor Robert Browning

Sir, In his article, "Playing for keeps in the diplomatic marbles game" (October 31), George Hill states that the dominant consideration in deciding on the proper home of the Parthenon marbles is that of precedent. This is both interesting and gratifying, but his discussion of it is somewhat misleading.

Certainly, the Parthenon is a special instance owing to the central position it occupies as a symbol of the Greek cultural heritage. But it is also a special instance because its sculptures were an integral part of the building from which they were taken, not decorative additions but actually functional architectural members (the metopes and frieze), forming a single complex work of art.

Nobody argues on the first score alone that "nothing else can claim to be in the same category", which would indeed be presumptuous. What we do say is that, on the first and second scores together, the Parthenon is virtually in a category of its own.

In this sense the return of the Parthenon marbles to Greece could not create a precedent, and the case therefore rests on the overwhelming desirability of reuniting as closely as possible the pieces of a great work of art, a point which Mr Hill most reasonably concedes.

Mr Hill distinguishes between the criterion of "national sentiment" and that of "legal title". Here Lord Elgin's actions do remain relevant. Indeed it has been strenuously argued that he had no valid legal title to the sculptures he removed and therefore no right to sell them to the British Government.

Elgin himself wrote in a letter to the prime minister of the day in 1811 that the Ottoman authorities had subsequently denied that "the persons who had sold those marbles to me had any right to dispose of them". This hitherto suppressed or forgotten evidence materially affects the case.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BROWNING,
(Chairman, British Committee for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles),
13a Hillgate Street, W8.
October 31.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 12 1888

Jack the Ripper is thought to have murdered at least six women in the Whitechapel district of London between August and November 1888. The Times of that period had a relish for crime. A few years previous the then Editor, Delane, had remarked to his deputy, "That was a good murder you had last week". The Ripper murders produced reams of copy; that of Mary Kelly reported on November 10 was accorded about 5,000 words in which no gory detail escaped the writer. In all, six leading articles were devoted to the Ripper. The author of one, however, did remember he was writing from Olympus and began, "The mind travels back to De Quincey..."

THE WHITECHAPEL MURDER

Great differences of opinion exist as to the exact time or about the time, the murder of Mary Jane Kelly took place. Mrs. Maxwell, the deputy of the Commercial lodging-house, which is situated exactly opposite Miller's court, the place in which the room of the murderer was found, Mrs. Maxwell gave positive information that she saw Mary Jane Kelly standing at the entrance to Miller's court at half past 8 on Friday morning. She stated that she expressed surprise at seeing Kelly at that early hour, and asked why she was not in bed. Kelly replied, "I can't sleep, I have the horrors from drink". Mrs. Maxwell further stated that after she went into Bishopsgate Street to make some purchases, and on her return saw Kelly talking to a short dark man at the top of the court. When asked by the police how she could fix the time of the murder, Mrs. Maxwell replied, "I was cause I went to the milk shop for some milk, and I had not been there for a long time, and she was wearing a woollen cross-over that I had not seen her wear for a considerable time". On inquiries being made at the milk shop indicated by the woman her statement was found to be correct, and the cross-over was also found in Kelly's room.

There is no doubt that the body of a person who, to use Dr. Phillips' own words, was "cut all to pieces" would get cold far more quickly than that of one who had died simply from the cutting of the throat and the room could have been very cold as the woman was wearing a woollen cross-over. Again, the body being entirely uncovered would very quickly get cold. It is the opinion of Mr. McCarthy, the landlord of 20, Dorset Street, that the woman was murdered at a much earlier hour than 8 o'clock and that Mrs. Maxwell and other person must have been mistaken.

The police are of opinion that the murderer did his fiendish work in daylight, and burnt the above-mentioned articles probably because they were bloodstained. In support of that theory, they have ascertained that on Wednesday night the dead woman purchased a halfpenny candle at the neighbouring chandler's shop, and on the room being searched this candle was found barely half consumed. Detective Inspector Abberline has interviewed a girl named Kennedy, who states that about half-past 3 on the morning of the murder she went to her parents' house, which is opposite the room occupied by Mary Jane Kelly, and on reaching the court she saw a woman talking to two men. Shortly afterwards, when inside her father's house, she heard a cry of "Murder" in a woman's voice, and she alleges the sound came from the direction of Kelly's room.

As early as 11 past 7 on Saturday morning Dr. Phillips, assisted by Dr. Bond (Westminster), Dr. Gordon Brown (City), Dr. Duke (Spitalfields) and his (Dr. Phillips) assistant, made an exhaustive post-mortem examination of the body at the mortuary adjoining the Whitechapel Church. It is known that after Dr. Phillips had "fixed" the cut portions of the body into their proper places no portion was missing. At the first examination, which was only of a cursory character, it was thought that a portion of the body had gone, but this is not the case. The examination was most minutely made, the body being opened 24 hours after which the mutilated portions were sewn to the body, and therefore the coroner's jury will be spared the unpleasant duty of witnessing the horrible spectacle presented to those who discovered the murder. The ashes found in the fireplace rented by the deceased woman were also submitted to a searching examination but nothing likely to throw any light on this shocking case could be gleaned from them...

Sunday trading

From Mr S. Douglas-Hogg

Sir, I am sure that I am not alone in recognizing the irony of the Queen's position in pledging her Government to the abolition of trading restrictions on Sundays. The Queen, both as Governor of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith, has been placed in a most difficult position. The proposition changes, however, prove yet another step toward the complete secularization of our society.

If the present criminal laws cannot be enforced, then recourse to the civil law ought to be made before restrictions are finally abolished, as suggested by Mr Paul Rippon in his letter (November 8).

A Christian society, in which the Lord's Day is treated no differently from any other day of the week, is a society that has lost all respect for its past and thus can have no notion of where it ought to go in the future. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
STEPHEN DOUGLAS-HOGG,
National Liberal Club,
Whitehall Place, SW1.
November 9.

Conquering hero

From Mr Paul M. Thomas

Sir, Mr McPhee (November 2) need have no fears. Only last week, at my daughter's primary school, I witnessed the magnificent spectacle of a duel between a king conker and a young pretender which ended in victory for the frail upstart.

What was disappointing, however, was the size of the crowd, which numbered three - my daughter and I and the teacher on duty.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL M. THOMAS,
10 The Paddocks, Cambridge.

November 12, 1985

SPECIAL REPORT

QATAR/1

The fiery start to a friendship



A cautious man of total power

The Emir of Qatar, who begins a three-day state visit to Britain today, is a traditional Gulf ruler intent on taking his country into the 20th century, while believing in using its oil revenues cautiously. His manner is decisive and forthright, but he subjects decisions to a careful, typically Qatari assessment. Little is done without his personal approval and few things go on within the Emirate without his knowing about them.

Qatar, a small peninsular state thrusting into the Gulf from the Arabian heartland, is very much his personal fiefdom and its capital, Doha, his painstaking creation.

In the 1960s Sheikh Khalifa increasingly took over the reins of government from his uncle, Sheikh Ahmad, who finally abdicated in his favour in February 1972, a few months after Qatar achieved independence from the British. Some claim that Sheikh Khalifa would have liked to see Qatar a member of the federation that became in 1971 the United Arab Emirates. He has certainly been a prime force behind moves for Gulf unity that culminated in 1981 with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council.

One of the most modest of capitals

It is one which Sheikh Khalifa has tried to reinforce by rigid control of building development in Doha, one of the most modest of Gulf capitals and therefore also one of the most human, as well as by setting up a range of cultural institutions to ensure that the tradition is not lost.

Behind all such development is the Emir, whether it is on the ground, as with the city, or under the ground, as with the North Field gas development. In old office or new he turns up every day he is in Qatar and makes sure everyone else turns up as well.

Little homilies on correct behaviour are posted on boards around Doha, mainly to do with driving (standards there are certainly improvable). A typical one reads: "Respecting traffic signals reflects your responsible behaviour". One leaves with the impression of a benign, slightly Victorian parent ensuring that all's well so long as you behave properly.

For the Emir, who today will be renewing his acquaintance with the Queen, first made in 1979 during her Gulf tour, remains deeply and personally involved in the running of his well-ordered country.

Sarah Searight

A son educated at Sandhurst

Qatar has a population of 240,000, only 60,000 of whom are Qatari. At least 2,000 of these belong to the al-Thani clan. The family originally came to the peninsula in the 18th century from Saudi Arabia and continues to have good relations with its giant neighbour.

Many al-Thanis are in the government, notably the Emir's eldest son and designated Crown Prince, Sheikh Ahmad, who is seen as taking on more responsibility these days in running the country in addition to his job as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces (he was partly educated at Sandhurst).

Sheikh Hamad, for instance, has stayed behind to take care of things in Doha during his

Leading ladies in the Gulf: the Emir hosts the Queen in 1979, and Mrs Thatcher in 1981

largest supplier after Japan, which for some years has been by far Qatar's largest trading partner.

Britain also enjoys one virtual monopoly among invisible exports - the English language. The British Council today has 12 representatives in Qatar, also maintaining an English language teaching centre and library in Doha. It also arranges regular visits by British specialists in many fields, from public health to librarianship, as well as organizing training courses in medicine, education, finance and banking.

While Qatar has prospered, just as Colonel Pelly forecast, so British influence in the Gulf has declined from the days when British political advisers dominated its affairs and the Royal Navy ruled its placid waters.

Nevertheless, relations which began so inauspiciously in 1821 with the bombardment of Doha, have probably never been warmer than today when the Queen drives to Victoria Station to welcome Sheikh Khalifa at the start of four days of ceremony and celebration which should further cement those historic links.

Peter Hopkirk

BASIC FACTS

Head of State	HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani
Area	11,427 square kilometres
National Day	September 3
Accession of Ruler	February 22
Day	Advisory Council
Population	257,000 (1985)
Capital	Doha
Main towns	Umm Said, Al-Khor, Dukhan, Wakrah
Port	Doha, Umm Said
Currency	Qatari Riyal (QR)
	1 = QR5.187
	\$1 = QR3.641
Daily newspapers	Al-Arabiya, Gulf Times, Al-Rayah
Language	Arabic (English is widely used in business)

which London had already concluded with other states in the Gulf.

Under this, Britain agreed to provide Qatar with protection from attack; while the Qataris undertook not to enter into relations with any other foreign power without British consent, and to desist from piracy and arms or slave trafficking.

Such were the formal beginnings of a friendship and profitable working relationship which have continued, despite Britain's exodus from the Gulf, to this day. Britain, moreover, has played a major role in the development of this small and little-known desert sheikhdom which, until the discovery of oil, derived a modest income from pearling and fishing.

As long ago as the 1870s, a far-sighted British Political Resident stationed at Bushire in the Gulf had forecast a renaissance for the Arab tribes in his area, including the Qataris.

"Here before you", Colonel Lewis Pelly told the Royal Geographical Society in London, "is society in the making. Meeting these Arabs you readily comprehend how once they stormed across the world. You leave them persuaded that they still possess qualities which may

quarrelling neighbours.

But Qatar was then still nominally part of the Ottoman Turkish Empire, and Britain's relations with Doha therefore were not fully consolidated until 1916. Then, following the surrender of the Turkish garrison at Doha, a treaty was signed between Britain and Qatar's powerful ruling family, the al-Thanis, which brought them into the network of treaties

When Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, drives to Buckingham Palace with the Queen today in the State landau, he may well recall that relations between his kingdom and hers were not always so rosy.

For Qatar's first experience of the British was unpleasant - and painful. In 1821, the East India Company's warship *Vesel* bombarded the tiny, mud-built town of Doha, today the Emir's modern, air-conditioned capital, razed it to the ground.

The ill-armed Qataris were forced to flee to neighbouring islands to escape the fury of the British guns. Twenty years later, moreover, the British did it again.

These bombardments were in retaliation for attacks on vessels of the East India Company made by Arab pirates based in the Gulf. For the Board of Control in London regarded this waterway, lying strategically astride the sea-route to India, as strictly a "British sea".

Modern Arab historians dispute this explanation, however, arguing that those warlike dhow captains were not pirates at all

but early freedom fighters resisting British incursions into their waters. Indeed, one of Sheikh Khalifa's neighbours, the Ruler of Sharjah, has just received a doctorate from a British university based on this very thesis.

Because it then had no paramount leader, until the late 1860s Qatar was regarded by the British as belonging to Bahrain, over whom they exercised considerable political control - although obviously not enough. For in 1867 the Bahrainis, who were having trouble with their neighbours, despatched a powerful force of men and warships to sack and loot Doha, and teach its inhabitants a lesson they would not forget.

Once again, the unfortunate Qataris were forced to flee their devastated capital, simultaneously losing most of their fleet to the enemy. Bowed but far from beaten, however, the following year they launched a counter-attack on Bahrain, in which both sides suffered heavy casualties.

Alarmed at these disturbances in waters supposedly policed by themselves, the British despatched warships to the area and managed to establish peace between the two

QATAR

GULF AIR WELCOMES HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR OF QATAR TO LONDON

This proud and aloof nation

Qatar is a small, 4,000 square mile peninsula that juts into the Gulf midway between Iraq and the Straits of Hormuz. Iran is about 150 miles to the north. Geographically and traditionally, Qatar has often stood aloof from the affairs of the Arabian peninsula, although invaded by the fundamentalist Wahhabis in the 19th century.

This relative isolation has helped the Qataris to face recession and the Gulf war. Qataris are proud of their aloofness from the profligate development of the oil price boom, their capital and their lifestyle are as low-key as their government's policies in foreign and domestic affairs.

Isolation has also bred a predilection for keeping out of sight. When Qataris take part in events beyond their frontiers they prefer to do it as part of a group. They laugh when asked if they would follow Oman's example in establishing diplomatic links with the U.S. "We shall be the last but one," a foreign ministry official said.

Before the establishment of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in 1981 the Qatari government championed calls for the creation of some form of Gulf-wide alignment, and the Emir has gone to considerable pains to keep alive the spirit of co-operation behind the GCC, demonstrated so far in a common economic agreement and attempts to integrate defence systems.

Qataris see their political integrity bolstered by this co-operation, whereas some GCC members, notably Kuwait, see it as in danger of being over-intrusive. The GCC gives the Qataris a diplomatic cover that allows them to operate internationally without abandoning their traditional low profile.

The Emir is a strong supporter of the GCC as promoting regional unity. The 1983 meeting of Gulf heads of state in Doha was an event of great

prestige to the Qataris, proud not only of their city, which had a remarkable facelift for the occasion, but also of the demonstration that their lonely peninsula was as vital a member of the council as anyone else. The Emir was instrumental in persuading the UN secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuellar to visit Tehran and Baghdad and Qatari officials stress the importance of keeping open the dialogue with both sides.

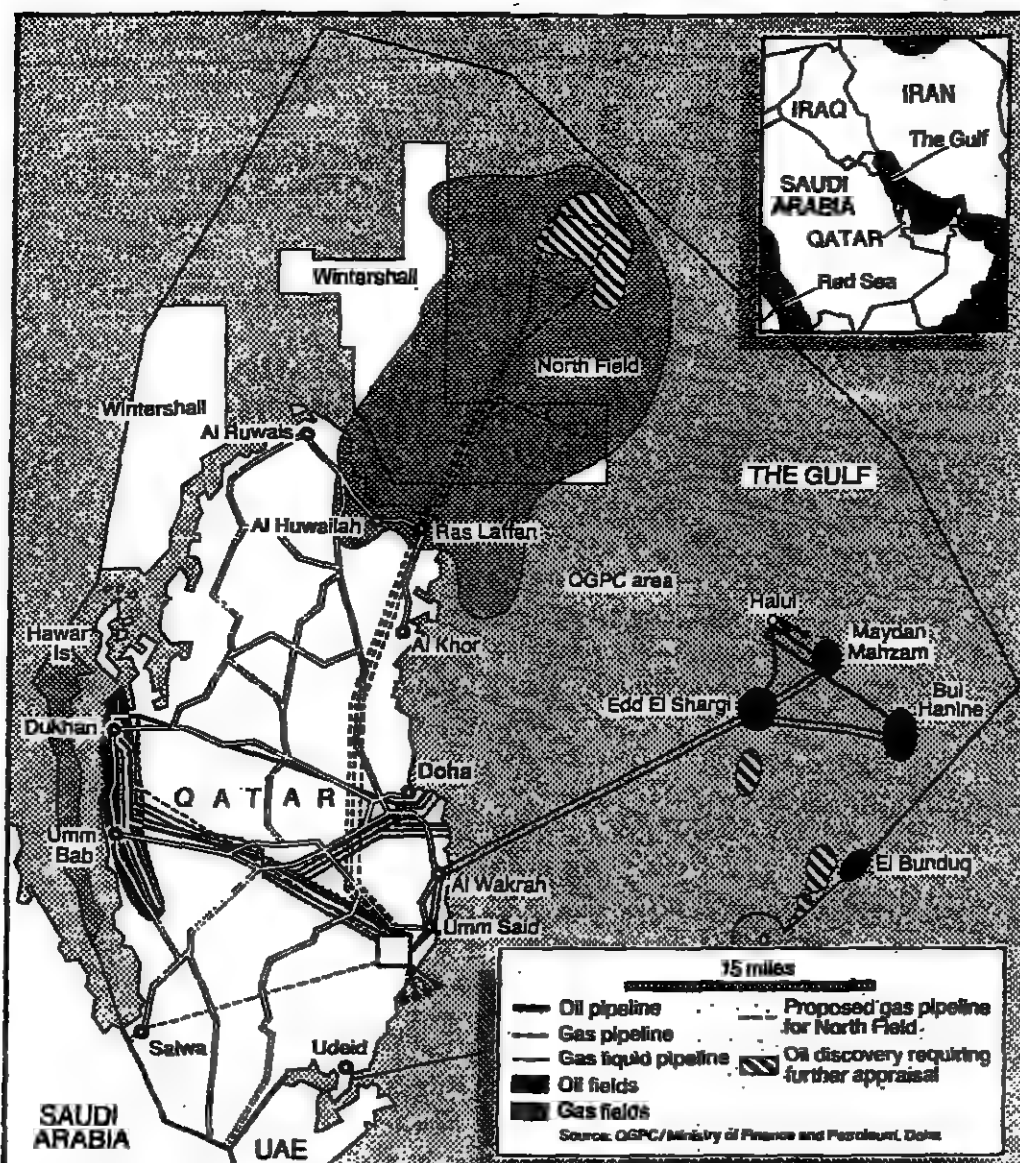
Qatar has been the least affected of the Gulf states by the Iran-Iraq dispute. Next to the UAE it maintains the friendliest relations with Iran, while accepting a GCC position that favours Iraq. Iraq is viewed as an Arab brother, but this fellow feeling is partly offset by a long-standing fear on account of Iraq's size and its revolutionary secular fervour.

Great sympathy for Palestinians

Like other Gulf states Qatar has a Shi'a population originating - like several of its Sunni families - from Iraq. But it is a smaller proportion than elsewhere - between 5 and 7 per cent - and not a threat to the security of the state.

Shi'a families are prominent in government and the business community and one of them, the old pearling family of al-Fardan, now leading Gulf jewellers, bought Tiffany's in New York recently. The recession has provided a good excuse to repatriate many migrant Iranian workers.

A faint cloud on the GCC horizon, watched warily by all Gulf states, is its possible domination by its largest and most populous member, Saudi Arabia. Qataris are generally less worried about this. Their Wahhabi traditions relieve them of Saudi religious pressures and they have been glad to accept the Saudi military umbrella, facilitated by the United States, particularly in the summer of 1984.



Every Gulf country would like to have an independent defence, hence the confusion of weaponry that has been bought. Qatar has a small army of about 8,000 (mainly expatriate, including most of the officers), a nine-vessel navy well supplied with Exocets that keeps an effective watch on territorial waters and 14 Mirage fighters awaiting a new air base.

The war tends to overshadow the Palestinian issue in daily commentary. But both account for the disillusion and exasperation expressed by Qataris as by other Arabs of the area with what are seen as super-power machinations in the Middle East.

From the Emir downwards

Qataris have enormous sympathy for the plight of Palestinians, about 30,000 of whom live in Qatar, most of them moderate supporters of the PLO and including some effective and well-established members of the Qatari community who have no intention of rocking the boat to press their concerns.

Qataris are remarkably tolerant of foreign ways, given their fundamental conservatism. Expatriates of all nationalities say they feel at home in Doha, part of a community that respects local customs and vice versa. The Qatari community maintains a sense of cohesion, partly through the character of its ruler, partly through a range of typically Arabian consulta-

tive processes of which the most conspicuous is the Majlis al-Shura.

This translates as consultative assembly, a kind of advisory council headed by the Emir which is composed of about 40 leading Qatari representatives of the principal families. It is strictly advisory, a means of ensuring support rather than enlisting it.

Ample oil revenue has created an all-embracing welfare state. Qataris are also generous aid givers (at one point heading the list per capita donors with \$33.50 a head), though less so to political causes, to the frustration of Palestinians and Iraqis.

A clamp on spending as the economy takes a rest

Doha is like a rather sleepy provincial town these days. Most major construction projects have been put to bed for the time being, although a few cranes hover on the skyline and the Emir's new palace looms over the old like a benign town hall. To the north of the city residential suburbs snuggle beside the sea; development on the reclaimed land of West Bay is taking a rest.

The economy is dormant and even the one prospect for its revitalization - development of the North Field gas - has been subjected to the most cautious of appraisals.

Somnolence is not a bad idea in the Gulf now and Qatar responded to the fall in oil revenues by pulling down its

and governments tend to use budgets as a gesture of good intent, with expenditure generally below that planned. Deficits look worse than they usually turn out to be.

Thus, this year's budget sets money aside for the much heralded \$570 million Wusail power and desalination project (water from this could be used for the small but import-substituting agricultural sector) and more for an Assembly building.

But Qataris are generally gloomy about the prospects of such stimuli to the construction industry starting up. The Emir is likely to respond instantly to any further fall in the price of oil by clamping down still further on spending.

The private sector is under-

deposits. Problems of payment in the private sector, a hazard of Gulf operations now, have led to exceptionally high debt provision; and loans are scrutinized with greater rigour.

Banks are dominated by the 20-year-old Qatari National Bank, which handles 70 per cent of the country's business, including all government business, with the rest divided among 15 commercial banks. These include a few familiar foreign faces - Standard Chartered, British Bank of the Middle East, Grindlays, Citibank - which tend to be less well than their local colleagues because of their reliance on trade financing as the main line of business.

When the North Field development gets under way next year, the lion's share on contracts will go to local firms, if necessary in partnership with technically advanced foreign concerns. Banks are hoping that will put more business their way.

Qataris are proud of being the first Gulf country to go in

for heavy industry, located 30 kilometres south of the capital round the deep-water harbour of Umm Said. The problem with being the first is that latecomers are using more economical technology, and Qatar has found itself the dumping ground for cement and steel produced more cheaply by competitors even within the supposedly harmonious Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

Qatar and its GCC neighbours face a prolonged recession for the next few years, before oil prices pick up again. Thrift and caution have served the Qataris well so far, but many are now searching hard for avenues of activity less dependent on the tight purse-strings of government spending.

standards dissatisfied with the slow-down. Hopes are pinned on the forthcoming development of Qatar's offshore North Field gas.

Development of the gas for domestic use, although more extravagant than an overall development that included exports of liquid natural gas (LNG), has to go ahead to meet local needs. By 1988 the non-associated gas from an onshore section of the vast Khuff reservoir will begin to have pressure problems and Qatar's small but significant industrial sector may have to shut for longer than usual "maintenance" periods.

The financial sector is as sleepy as the rest of the economy. Bank assets, about \$3,660 million, are static, as are

A DECADE OF UK/QATAR TRADE 1975-84 (£000)

	UK exports	UK imports	UK trade balance
1975	55,804	159,315	-103,511
1976	96,816	248,701	-151,885
1977	117,480	102,534	14,946
1978	91,750	30,440	61,310
1979	101,722	40,489	61,233
1980	101,894	44,858	57,036
1981	135,723	10,553	125,047
1982	245,330	33,984	211,406
1983	216,385	10,083	206,322
1984	133,803	28,212	105,591

Compiled from Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, London, 1975-85

Total revenue

peaked in 1980 when oil exports fetched \$3,459 million (about \$3,650 million). After falling from 1981-83, oil revenues rose in 1984 when Qatar was producing an average of 420,000 barrels a day (b/d) - well in excess of its Opec quota.

This year it is respecting its Opec quota of 280,000 b/d and revenue for the 1985-86 financial year is estimated at \$2,705 million.

Expenditure is set at \$4,735 million leaving a deficit of \$2,030 million. Budget deficits have been met in the past by drawing on reserves, which have come down from a peak of \$14,000 million probably to about \$10,000 million. Budgets are not good guides to economic performance in the Gulf. Government spending has been the prime economic motivator



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HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL-THANI
THE EMIR OF THE STATE OF QATAR

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SPECIAL REPORT

QATAR/3

A slow climb back to growth

Due to factors beyond the government's control, the country's economy has not quite been the success that was hoped for. A slump in world prices for Qatar's products, and feedstock problems caused by lower oil production, are taking their toll on profitability.

To reduce its almost total dependence on crude oil for revenue, three main ventures were set up with foreign participation. Production at the fertiliser plant began in 1973, the Gulf's first integrated steel mill, started in 1978 and petrochemical production began in 1981.

Qatar Fertiliser Company (Qafco) has so far been the star of the trio. The company achieved record output and profit levels in 1984, but nevertheless will see its 1985 profits reduced because of lower world prices for urea and ammonia.

Production at Qatar Steel Company (Qasco) almost monthly hits new records. Yet for the last three years the company has turned in poor financial results due to a slump in steel prices.

It is Qatar Petrochemicals Company (Qapco) which has been the most badly affected. The company is bracing itself for its worst year yet because of the disastrous combination of very low prices and feedstock shortages. The later problem is, however, soon to be resolved: an ethane recovery unit is being commissioned which will enable the plant to run at capacity with daily oil production at only 300,000 barrels per day.

Qafco is 75 per cent state-owned; the remaining share is held by Norway's Norsk Hydro, which manages the plant. The company made a net profit of QR 170 million in 1984 which enabled it to pay extra instalments of its government loan. The total debt now stands at just over QR 200 million.

According to Qafco managing director Ingulf Skogestad, production is now reaching saturation point. Nevertheless, last year's output of 632,000 tonnes of ammonia and 734,000 tonnes of urea will be exceeded by just a few thousand tonnes in 1985.

India and China are the main customers for the urea, although 1985 has seen a rise in sales to the United States, South America and Australia. Last year, India was also the biggest ammonia purchaser, taking 60 per cent of sales. But India's purchases are dwindling as home production increases.

Qafco is looking forward to the day when North Field gas is available. Then there will be no technical obstacle to increasing capacity should the government consider it a wise commercial move.

Qasco is 70 per cent government-owned. The remaining equity is held by Japanese companies. Kobe Steel, which built the plant, has a 20 per cent share and provides the management. Tokyo Bocki has a 10 per cent stake and is responsible for marketing the products outside Qatar.

Output is running at 145 per cent of design capacity and production of steel bars this year is expected to exceed last year's record 470,000 tonnes. In June this year the 48,985 tonnes of bars produced was the best monthly figure in Qasco's history.

But world prices for steel have dropped by almost a third since 1980 and, sadly, the company's financial performance does not match up.

Qasco's sales follow a consistent pattern. Between 40 and 50 per cent annually goes to Saudi Arabia; the remainder to other countries. The company faces stiff competition from countries like Brazil and Korea, but it is hoping that a Gulf Cooperation Council recommendation for a 20 per cent tariff on non-GCC steel imports will be implemented.

In the meantime, plans to expand the plant have been put on ice until prices and demand pick up.

The fact that Qatar has stuck to its Opec quota of 280,000 bpd in 1985 has caused considerable anguish at Qapco, which was designed with production of 500,000-plus bpd in mind.

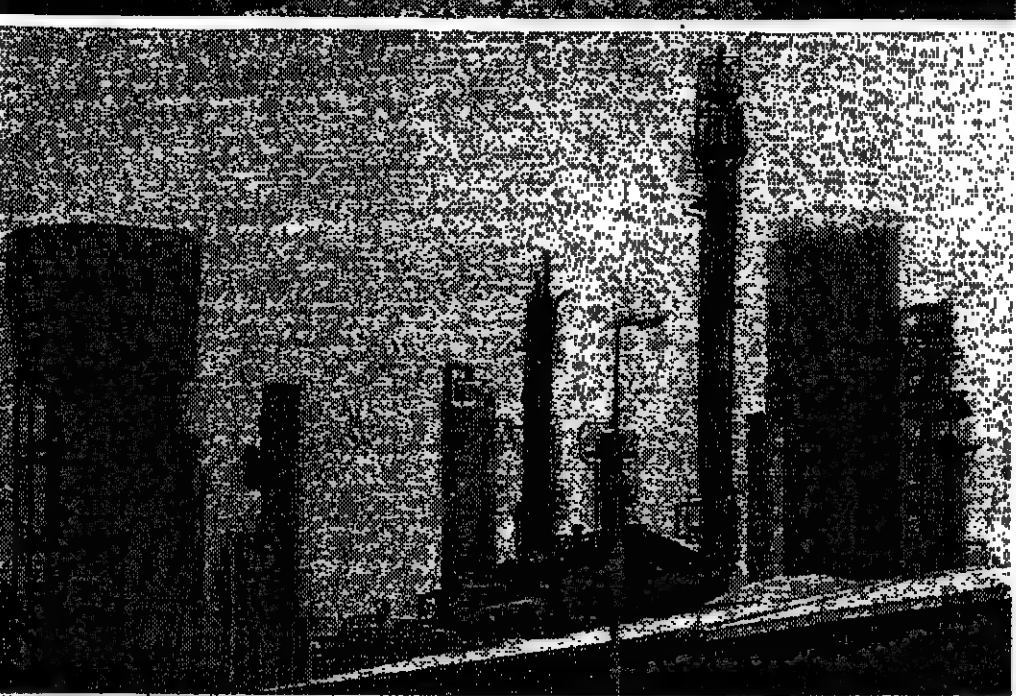
The resulting feedstock shortages mean that ethylene has been produced at less than 60 per cent of capacity in the first nine months of the year, compared with 73 per cent of capacity in 1984.

Recovery is, however, in sight. The \$55 million ethane recovery unit should be fully operational by the end of the year. It has been built by France's Cdf-Chemie.

The unit will provide Qapco with an extra 100,000 tonnes per year of ethylene to dispose of, and the chance to attain profitability should prices make even a slight recovery. Feasibility studies are planned to see if it is more economic simply to sell the ethylene or to convert it.

As a spin-off from its heavy industry, the government has been trying for several years to encourage the growth of a light industrial sector. This has met with limited success. Since mid-1981 some 80 licences have been issued for private sector activities covering a whole host of activities from plastics to construction materials.

Elizabeth Kirkwood



Alternatives to oil: Qatar Steel Company (above); and Qatar Fertiliser Company

Design and overall project management. An award is expected in late November or early December. Small jobs such as site surveys are already going out to tender, while major construction tenders will be invited in mid-to-late 1986.

Japan has been identified as the most likely market for Qatar gas, hence plans for a six million tonnes per annum liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant. Marubeni, in return for its 7.5 per cent share, reckons it

will be able to sell 2 million tonnes per annum from 1992, a further 2 million tonnes per annum from 1994, and the full six million tonnes per annum from 1996. But this is not a cast-iron commitment, and Japanese users are already tied into several LNG schemes worldwide.

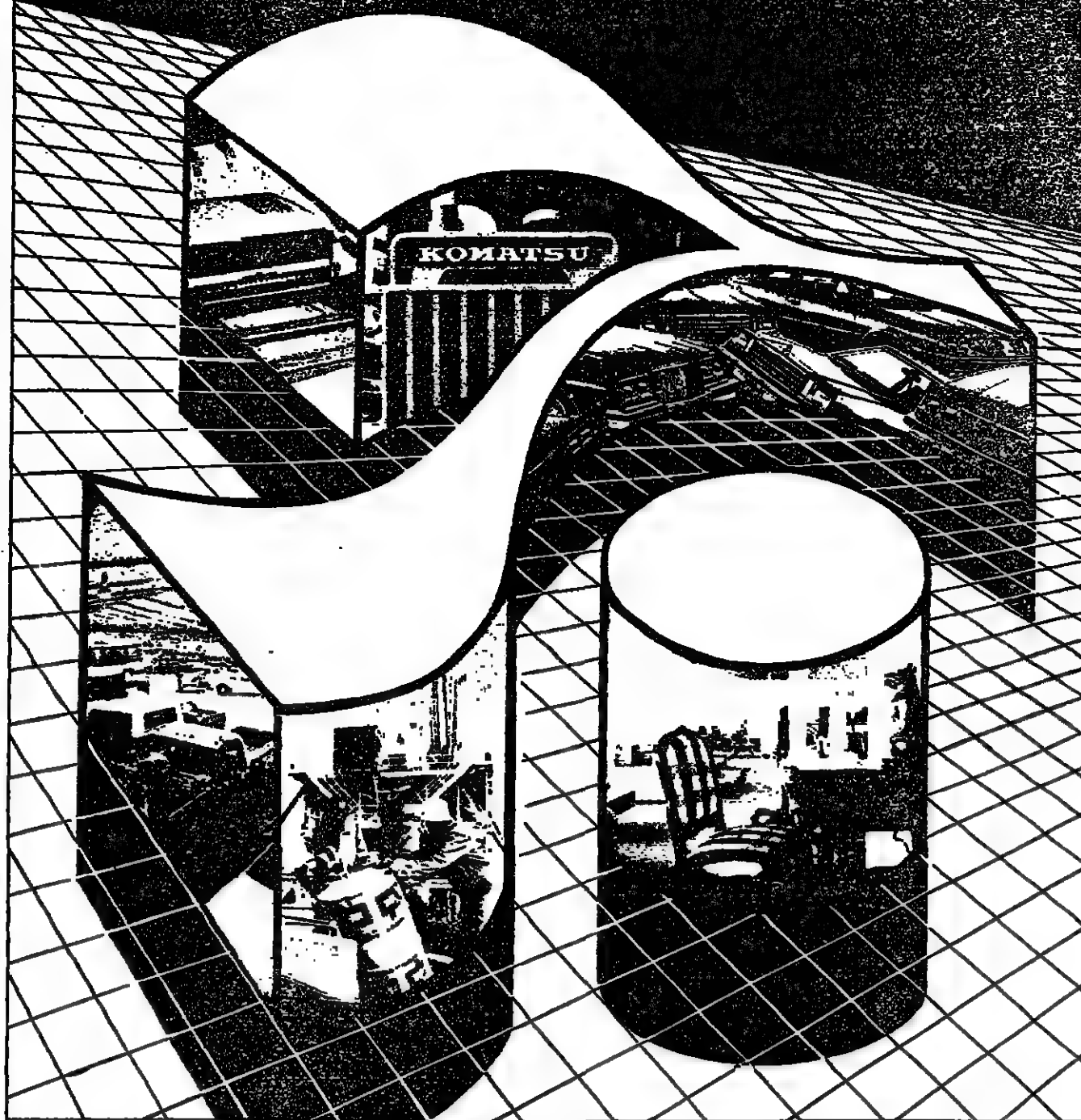
In recent months another option has emerged: a pipeline to Europe via Turkey, which would make Qatar's gas an alternative to Soviet supplies. Officials from Turkey's state oil company, Botas, and Qatar's Finance and Petroleum Ministry met in June to discuss the matter; further talks are planned this month.

As with Japan, though, there is no promise of European buyers in the 1990s. Competition will come from not only the USSR, but also Algeria and the North Sea.



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Hopes are pinned on gas when the oil runs out

Qatar is more fortunate than some of its oil-producing neighbours. Sitting on what may turn out to be the world's largest reserves of non-associated gas, the country does not have the same worries about its future once the oil runs out.

But the gas is not without its own problems. Some 14 years after the discovery of the North Field reserves, the government is only just getting round to developing them after much heart-searching over the viability of the project and the uncertainty about future markets.

The North Field covers an area of some 2,300 square miles to the north-east of Qatar. Recoverable reserves are put at 150 trillion cubic feet while probable reserves are thought to be 380 trillion cubic feet.

Looming every shortage have forced the government into action. Lower oil production has reduced the amount of associated gas available to industry, and the onshore reserves of non-associated Khuff gas at Dukhan are running out.

In June 1984 an agreement was signed with British Petroleum has Compagnie Francaise des Petroles-Total involving the two companies in planning the recovery of the gas.

In November 1984 the Qatar Liquefied Gas Company was set up to handle the future export phase of the gas project. BP and CFP-Total each took a 7.5 per cent stake in the company and Japan's Marubeni Corporation has since signed up for a 7.5 per cent share. The balance is held by the oil company Qatar General Petroleum Corporation, although a further 7.5 per cent is still on offer to foreign partners.

Leading contenders are a Japanese consortium of Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsui and Company and C. Itoh and Company, and a consortium led by the West German Wintershall. The Norwegians and South Koreans are also said to be interested.

Present plans call for the recovery of an eventual 2.4 billion cubic feet per day (cfpd). This will be developed in three phases. The first 800 million cfpd will be for domestic use by the late 1980s. Domestic demand is about 500m cfpd; the surplus will be re-injected into the Dukhan Khuff strata to provide an onshore reserve.

The second 800m cfpd will supply a planned Gulf gas grid, although Kuwait is the only country so far to have shown firm interest in Qatar's gas. The final 800m cfpd will be converted for export in an estimated \$3,000 million liquefaction plant.

In August, the US's Bechtel Corporation was awarded a \$1.2 million contract to provide the first phase basic engineering design. Bids are now being evaluated for the detailed

Pipeline option to Europe

well be able to sell 2 million tonnes per annum from 1992, a further 2 million tonnes per annum from 1994, and the full six million tonnes per annum from 1996. But this is not a cast-iron commitment, and Japanese users are already tied into several LNG schemes worldwide.

In recent months another option has emerged: a pipeline to Europe via Turkey, which would make Qatar's gas an alternative to Soviet supplies. Officials from Turkey's state oil company, Botas, and Qatar's Finance and Petroleum Ministry met in June to discuss the matter; further talks are planned this month.

As with Japan, though, there is no promise of European buyers in the 1990s. Competition will come from not only the USSR, but also Algeria and the North Sea.

In an ideal world for Qatar there would be both a Japanese and a European market. "We can do both, we have plenty of gas," says QGPC managing director Ali Jaidah. "If the pipeline project is economically viable then we will find plenty of money to finance it. But it will not be feasible unless European demand is in the region of 2-3 billion cubic feet per day."

The matter is unlikely to be settled in the immediate future. "At the moment talks about selling LNG to Japan are at a more advanced stage, but we have not implemented anything officially," says Jaidah. "We are keeping our avenues open in both directions."

Qatar's oil reserves are estimated at about 4.5 billion barrels, which will last for 40 years at present extraction rates. The onshore Dukhan field is operated on behalf of QGPC by the Dukhan Service Company. Major shareholders are BP and CFP-Total. Three offshore fields are similarly operated by the Qatar Shell Service Company, and a fourth, Al Bundugh, is jointly owned with Abu Dhabi.

The country is capable of producing almost 600,000 barrels per day (bpd), but market forces, and Opec quotas have conspired to restrain output. Since October 1984 Qatar's quota has been just 280,000 bpd.

Unlike 1984, when Qatar averaged in excess of 400,000 bpd (its quota for most of the year was 300,000 bpd) and

discounted heavily on the spot market, 1985 has been a year of model behaviour. Average production has fallen easily within the official quota.

But the government is not happy about the situation and at an early October Opec meeting in Vienna, Qatar was one of several countries seeking to raise its quota.

Qatar has been generating some interest on the international scene this summer by offering exploration permits in several new areas. In June the Standard Oil Company of Ohio (Sohio) signed a 25-year oil production-sharing agreement with the Finance and Petroleum Ministry. Sohio, which is 55 per cent owned by British Petroleum, submitted a \$25 million guarantee of its sincerity to the government and will initially bear all the exploration costs, recoverable once production starts.

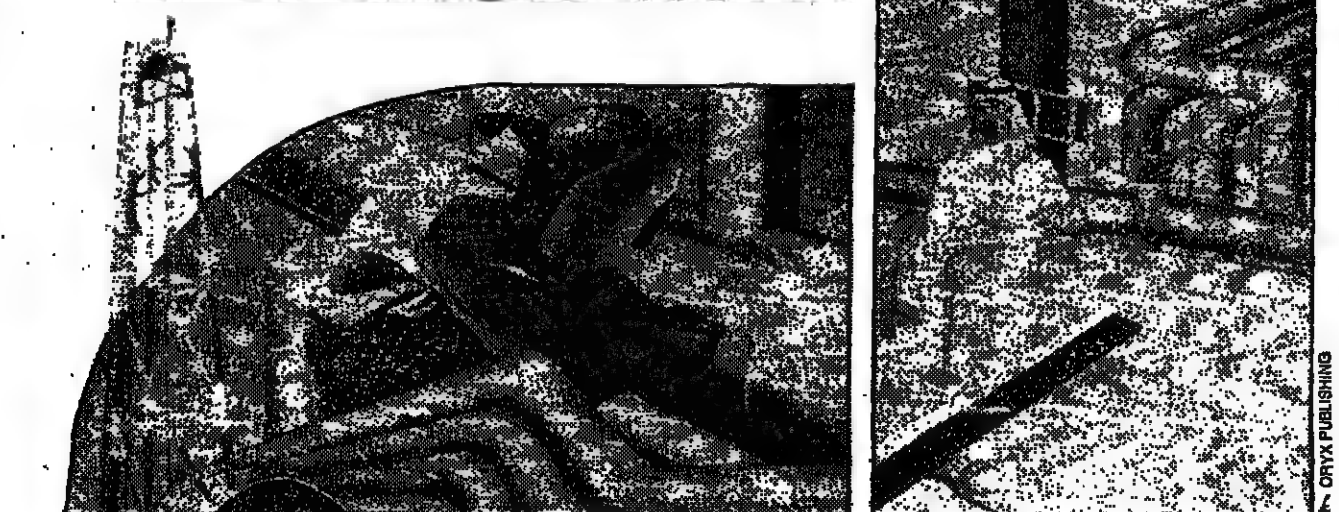
Shortly after the Sohio agreement it was announced that a further three concessions - one onshore and two offshore - would be offered to foreign concerns. Signatures in the Finance and Petroleum Ministry's visitors' book have been swelled this summer by foreign oilmen coming to examine data on the zones.

Two more concessions may yet be offered up, but the Ministry has to get through the paperwork involved in the present batch before new invitations can be issued.

The only other foreign company to operate a concession is the West German Wintershall. Oil production had not begun by June this year when Wintershall's ten-year agreement expired and it is now negotiating new terms.

Since mid-1984 Qatar has been self-sufficient in refined products following the commissioning of a 50,000 bpd refinery. With domestic demand at about 11,000 bpd there is plenty of scope for export, but the refinery is only running at half capacity. Just one contract has been signed so far: with BP Oil International for 30,000 tonnes of fuel oil per month. However, Korea's Hyundai is building a multi-product pipeline and export terminal which although heavily behind schedule, should enable Qatar to increase exports of refined products by next year.

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Good prospects for Britain's invisible trade

Foreign dignitaries visiting Doha for the first time are often shown around the impressive new Hamad General Hospital and futuristic Sheraton Hotel. When Margaret Thatcher went to Qatar at the end of a Gulf visit she was also given a tour, because both hospital and hotel are among the showpieces of the country's spectacular economic and social progress.

Mrs Thatcher was greatly impressed by the hospital. In saying so she was not only paying tribute to her hosts, but also to Britain, for the hospital, one of the best in the Gulf, was designed and built by British companies.

The Sheraton was designed by a Californian firm and built by a South Korean contractor, but some of the specialized consultancy work and much of its furnishings were supplied by British companies.

When the word "trade" is mentioned, most people automatically think of commodities or "visibles," the statistician's jargon for them. "Invisibles," such as consultancy, banking, management and other services, do not usually receive the recognition they deserve.

Yet, invisible export earnings have always been crucial to the British economy, especially in recent years. Britain's balance of payments has been characterized by deficits in visible trade and surpluses in invisibles.

Now that many Arab states, particularly those of the Gulf, have completed or are about to complete their infrastructure schemes such as roads, ports and electricity supply networks, their need for invisible imports, especially maintenance, management and training services, is bound to increase considerably.

These provide good prospects for Britain, a country with which Gulf states, including Qatar, enjoy long links. Doha is the home of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), an agency whose work spreads throughout the six members of the influential Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Moreover, many government departments and private businesses there have a strong tendency to work to specifications based on British technical standards, something which naturally gives Britain an edge over its competitors.

Despite these advantages, British companies cannot be

complacent. Like other Gulf states, Qatar is a fiercely competitive market in which companies from all over the world are only too anxious to secure business. Gone are the days when British firms could expect business in the Gulf to come readily their way simply because of Britain's historical connections with the region.

As one Qatari businessman put it: "We do not have the time to wait days for a British firm to reply to a telex if a Japanese one responds to the same within hours."

Although Britain has not recently won big contracts in Qatar, it nevertheless remains its second-largest supplier, coming after Japan, which has for many years been by far its biggest trading partner. British exports to Qatar have, however, dropped markedly since 1982, from £245 million in that year to only £134 million last year. Capital goods, such as machinery and transport equipment and industrial products, account for most British sales there.

Many of Doha's supermarkets, including "The Centre," the most popular (itself designed by a British firm), and "Al-Salam," stock a wide range of British consumer goods.

North Sea expertise to help gas field

British imports from Qatar, consisting mostly of crude oil, peaked at £249 million in 1976, but have since declined dramatically, reaching a mere £10 million in 1983 and only £28 million last year. Britain has therefore, since 1977, enjoyed a continuing trade surplus with Qatar, amounting to a record £205 million in 1983 and a little more than half of that in the following year. The switch from deficit to surplus has naturally followed the sharp drop in Britain's crude oil imports from almost all Opec countries as North Sea liftings rose.

Britain's North Sea offshore oil and gas industry has been developed under some of the world's most hostile conditions, requiring complex technology to cope with the difficulty of lifting stocks from deep waters.

Britain's experience in developing such technology can pay off well elsewhere. Qatar, for example, has now, after many years of elaborate studies, decided to go ahead with its huge North Field natural gas scheme, costing about \$6,000 million. Although most of the construction work is likely to be



Helping hand: British firms supplied furnishings for The Sheraton (above) and built the Hamad hospital (right)

done by United States and West German corporations, some British companies are expected to benefit from the scheme and one is already providing technical services for it.

The field, lying about 70 kilometres off the Qatari coast, will supply natural gas through two pipelines to processing plants at Umm Said. It will be carried out in two stages, each of which envisages lifting 800 million cubic feet of gas a day. The plants will produce liquefied natural gas (LNG) and natural gas liquids (NGL) for export.

Nearly 150 British companies now have offices in Qatar, most of which are in Doha, the home

of about four-fifths of the country's entire population of about 250,000.

A large number of these belong to consultancy firms, companies with contracts there and suppliers of capital and consumer goods. Of Qatar's 14 commercial banks, 10 are foreign ones, including The British Bank of the Middle East, known for short as the BBME, Chartered Bank and Grindlays Bank.

The City of London was in 1975 chosen as headquarters for the Qatar Investment Office, which advises the government on how best to invest its surplus funds.

Atef Sultan

International level of sports clubs

Qatar's government-built sports clubs would be the envy of any cash-strapped Western city council. The country's population is in the region of 250,000, of which Qataris number perhaps 80,000, yet nationals have access to not one but six of these international-standard clubs - and there are more to come.

Each club offers a football pitch and athletics track in a stadium capable of holding 20,000 people. There are multi-purpose halls with courts for basketball, volleyball, handball and tennis, plus social facilities.

The clubs were designed by British architects Rice Perry Ellis and Partners and built during the last four years at an average cost of QR38 million each.

Rice Perry's initial brief was to design clubs suitable for county-level sport. But when a Qatar football team was runner-up in the Youth World Cup in 1981, the Youth Welfare High Council decided that young people should be encouraged further in this vein. Facilities that met with international competition standards were to be built.

The plan was to provide seven clubs, one for each of the first division football teams. Six have so far been completed and the seventh is expected to get under way this financial year. But already the government is pushing ahead with the second phase development of the clubs. This comprises a 25-metre swimming pool, surfaces for outdoor athletics events and cosmetic touches such as a family garden and landscaping.

Building for the second division

The government now has plans to build a similar number of clubs for the second division football teams. Within the next two years we may have a competition for the design of these clubs," says Sheikh Ahmed bin Hassan al-Thani, programme co-ordinator and director of finance at the public works ministry.

One could argue that so many clubs are not necessary. Already the combined stadium capacity could virtually hold the entire population of Qatar. But this does not deter the planners, who see in sport the means to prevent the country's young people squandering their leisure time and, worse, taking drugs.

The numbers problem is

reflected in the use of the clubs - rarely are more than a 100 people present at one time. Yet the qualifying heats for the World Cup earlier this year were played to capacity crowds.

Football is serious business. One of the first division teams, Rayyan, has signed up as its coach Alan Dicks, who for 13 years was manager of Bristol City. Other teams, including the national squad, have Brazilian coaches, and six British referees have been procured for the national league which began last month. Their task is to raise the standard of the local referees and to improve discipline on the field.

Basketball is more popular

"We have not yet started to have Britain's problems of violence among spectators," says Sheikh Ahmed, "but it is a problem on the field." As indeed one of the British referees discovered to his cost: local newspapers pictured him prostrate - floored by an irate player in a recent cup match.

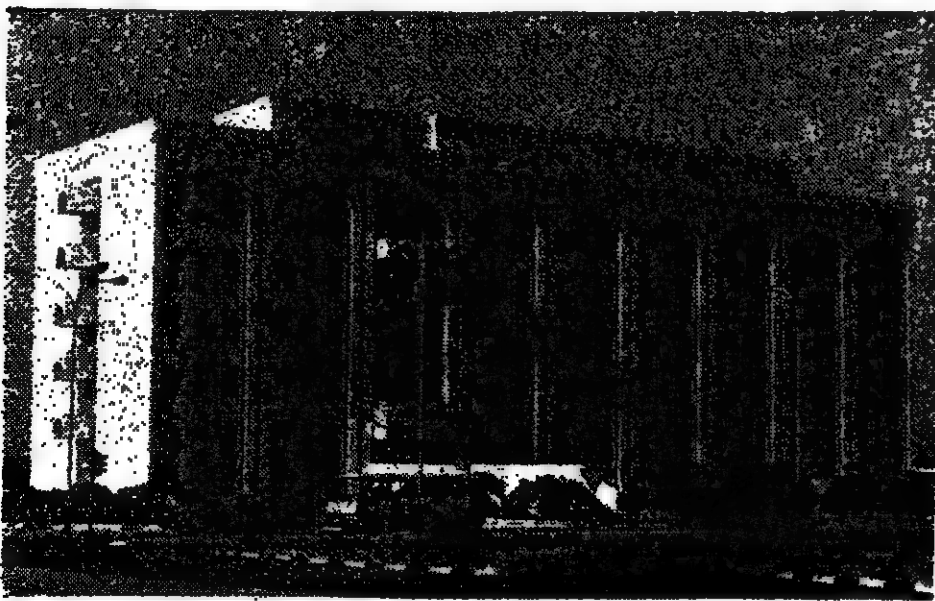
Basketball is becoming increasingly popular. Each club team is allowed to take on two foreign players, so seven-foot Americans have been enlivening the action, to the particular delight of the many US-educated Qataris. And athletics are gaining prominence - hence the inclusion of field events such as long jump and javelin in the phase two programme.

Tennis and squash teams are more active in the many private sector clubs. But young Qataris are likely to grow more enthusiastic about these sports following the formation last year of the Qatar Tennis and Squash Federation, presided over by the Minister of Information, Isa Ghanem al-Kuwari.

In Western eyes there would be perhaps only one flaw in these first-rate clubs. They are not for women. Women are so obviously excluded that there are not even toilet facilities for them.

Yet this is not quite the hardship it might seem. Sports education is available to girls in schools and at university. And in this traditional, male-dominated society, a Qatari woman who wishes to play sport may well find that her husband or father will be happy to build a court or a pool in the privacy of their garden.

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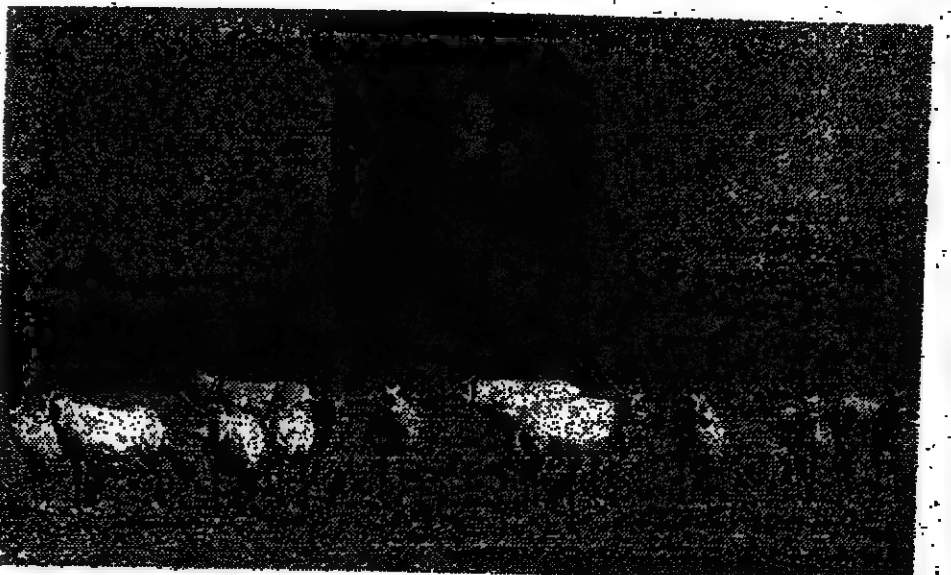
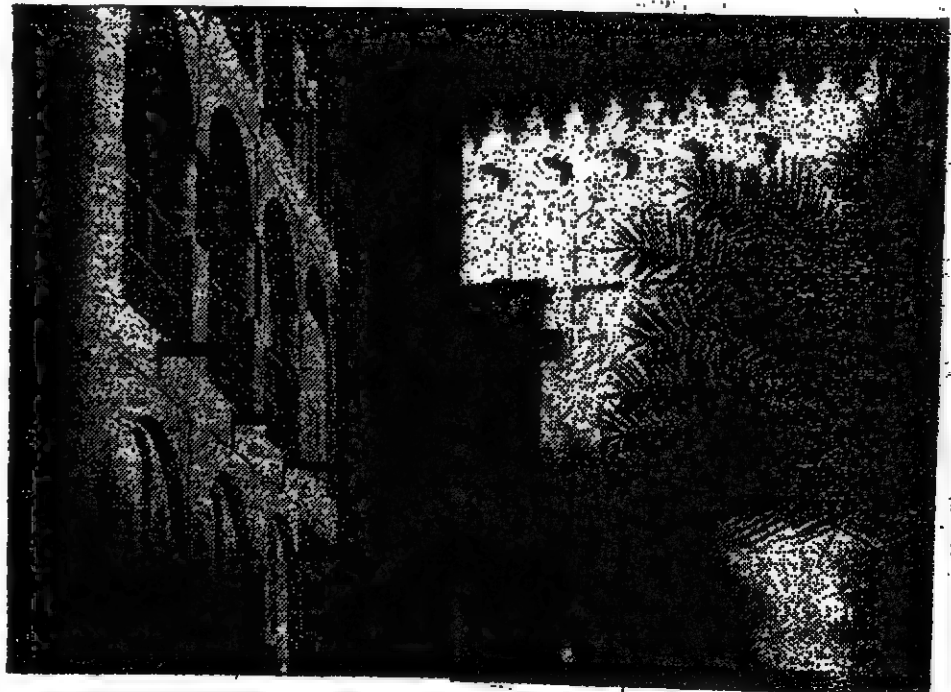
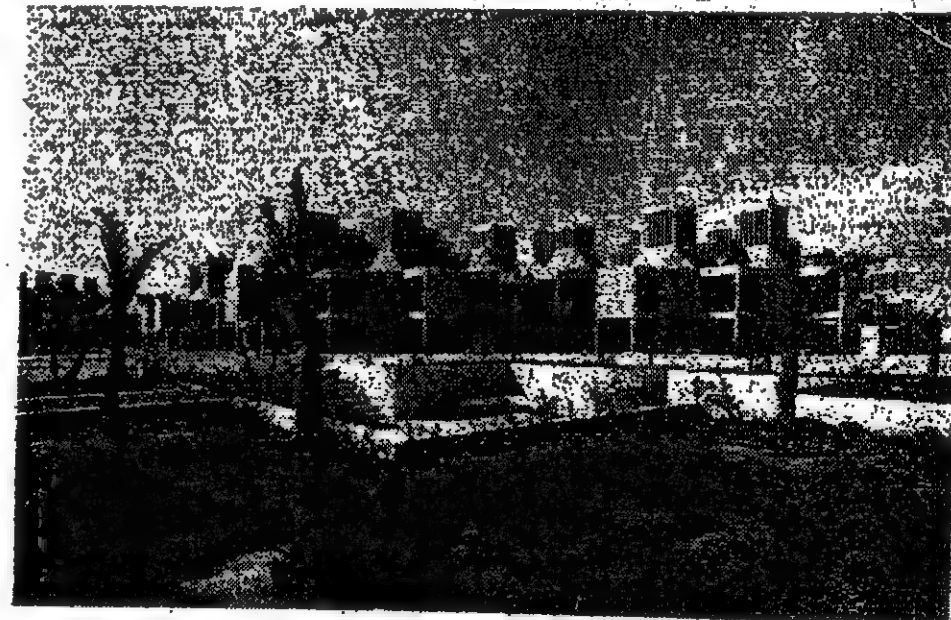
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QATAR/5

Separate lives on the new campus

Qatar's new university campus blends neatly with its desert environment a few kilometres outside Doha. The university itself was set up in 1973, initially as two teacher-training colleges, in makeshift premises in the centre of town.

A grander scheme was envisaged from the start, coinciding with the oil-revenue boom, and the Egyptian architect, Dr. Kamal Kafrawi, has been working on its remarkable design since then. The planners who worked with him made certain assumptions about the way Qatari society would develop in view of the boom. The fact that these assumptions were to some extent misplaced helps illustrate Gulf society today.

The \$275 million campus is a visual treat. Dr. Kafrawi has made refreshing use of the familiar ingredients of bona fide Islamic architecture, with arches and arcades, octagonal classrooms and geometric windows. He has used the traditional wind tower of the area to ventilate certain public places, eliminating the need for air-conditioning, and used octagonal windows filled with stained glass, to reduce the addition to artificial lighting.

Several institutions in Qatar have been set up to preserve and strengthen links with indigenous traditions. The university planners aimed to place the campus among them, but without giving enough weight to the most important of those traditions - Islam, and the strong conservatism which accompanies it in Qatar.

Appealing to a Qatari sense of thrift, they set out to accommodate girls and boys on the same campus. Both sexes share campuses in Bahrain and Kuwait, although there is pressure for segregation in Kuwait University, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia have gone in for costly duplication, with separate campuses.

In Qatar campus hostels and sports and social facilities were segregated, but girls' study areas were cunningly interwoven with the boys' in the manner of the traditional Arabian home, where the women have their part of the house and the men theirs. Library, laboratories and computer facilities were to be timetabled for separate use. There was no suggestion that girls and boys should actually study alongside each other. The



Lessons for the future: Primary schoolgirl in Doha and young men students

concept was imaginative. It has also proved indigestible.

Quite probably the pressure of foreign values resulting from the oil wealth would have produced an Islamic reaction in the Gulf anyway. The reaction has been much stronger, however, because it has been backed by the revolutionary fervour emanating from Khomeini's Iran. And Iran is uncomfortably close to Qatar.

The 1979 takeover by Muslim extremists of the Grand Mosque in Mecca drove home the point of an Islamic revival as a political as well as religious force that no one could afford to ignore. Today most Gulf Arabs would say they have no wish to emulate a western lifestyle.

In Qatar this is strengthened by the traditional puritanism of Wahhabi Islam, although the behaviour of young Qatari may not always match the wishes of their elders. The present toll from traffic accidents and a small but growing drug problem are not going to make parents more liberal.

The campus has brought this resolution into the open. Designed for 8,000 students, it at present accommodates half that number - around 3,000 girls (whose parents prefer them to be educated close to home) to 1,000 boys (Qatari boys are free to go to other Gulf universities, although the government has cut back drastically on scholarships further afield).

At the inauguration of the campus last February it was realized that one sex would be able to see the other despite the architect's precautions. In the present climate of opinion this was unacceptable. A wall has now snaked its way through the campus.

By leaving most of the classrooms to the boys, new ones are needed for the girls. This, as university officials point out, allows for certain adjustments to be made to the original designs, incorporating reactions (ie complaints) from the staff. A new approach road has also been built for the girls.

Despite a small and impressive group of professional women, Qatari girls are perhaps the least emancipated in the Gulf. Few of them work outside teaching, although several of the few are conspicuous on television. Most marry young and are busy providing the country with its three per cent growth in local population.

Underestimating this conservatism, among Qatari women as well as men, has proved an expensive miscalculation on the part of the university planners - sad too, in view of the elegance of the original designs. But in political terms Qatar, like its fellow members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, does not welcome change these days. Many view economic recession as a relief from the helter-skelter modernization of 1973-83. It is wrong for the west to assume Qatari youth is discontented. But for how long will Qatari girls allow the wall to stand?

SS

All the colour of Qatari life on show

Fishing and pearling in summer in the steamy waters of the Gulf, and, in winter, grazing goats and camels on the sparse thorny scrub of the desert - that was life in Qatar before oil, as depicted in an exhibition which opened yesterday at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall to mark the Emir's visit to London.

It was not an easy life. Qatar had even less of the one vital resource - water - than its neighbours, hence its relative isolation from the coming and goings of the Gulf. It is remarkable how man can brighten his life in so stark a setting.

Qataris are cautious people and so they have kept one

careful foot in the past through the hectic years of oil-financed modernization. They built the first museum in the Gulf from which many of the present exhibits come. These include a collection of arrowheads and medieval pottery, as well as the accoutrements of a more recent past - the bedouin tent, with a visiting Qatari serving Arabian coffee, bitter and flavoured with cardamom.

There is not much nostalgia these days for the old pearling industry (another section of the exhibition). Qatar's sole source of revenue before oil was exported. But how intricate an industry it was, involving a commercial network stretching from the Gulf to Bombay and

thence to the affluent necks, ears and fingers of Europe and the United States. It is appropriate that an old pearling family, the al-Fardans, now own Tiffany's of New York.

Bright colours were like delicious secrets in this stark existence. The women's dresses, for instance, displayed here in all their gaudy radiance, were mostly hidden beneath black cloaks. The outside of the bedouin tent is soft desert colour, but inside its cushions glow with rich vegetable dyes. That love of colour has been passed on to the children of today in their painting.

Because of their attachment to the past, Qataris are using theatre, song and dance and poetry to cushion the arrival of Western culture.

An energetic Department of Culture, part of the Ministry of Information, subsidizes song and dance groups, theatre groups and craft classes throughout the country.

"A government department can't create writers and musicians," says the director, Mr Mousa Zaimem, himself an actor and playwright, "but it can provide the environment and the encouragement."

An important task of the groups has been to involve old as well as young. The old need involving because of their problems of adapting to the modern world around them, often made worse by their illiteracy and the seeming

irrelevance of the skills and way of life that they grew up with.

The young need involving because of their boredom in the long afternoons after school. Performances and exhibitions such as the Qataris are mounting this week help hold a fragile community together. They are also fun, especially when foreign travel is involved.

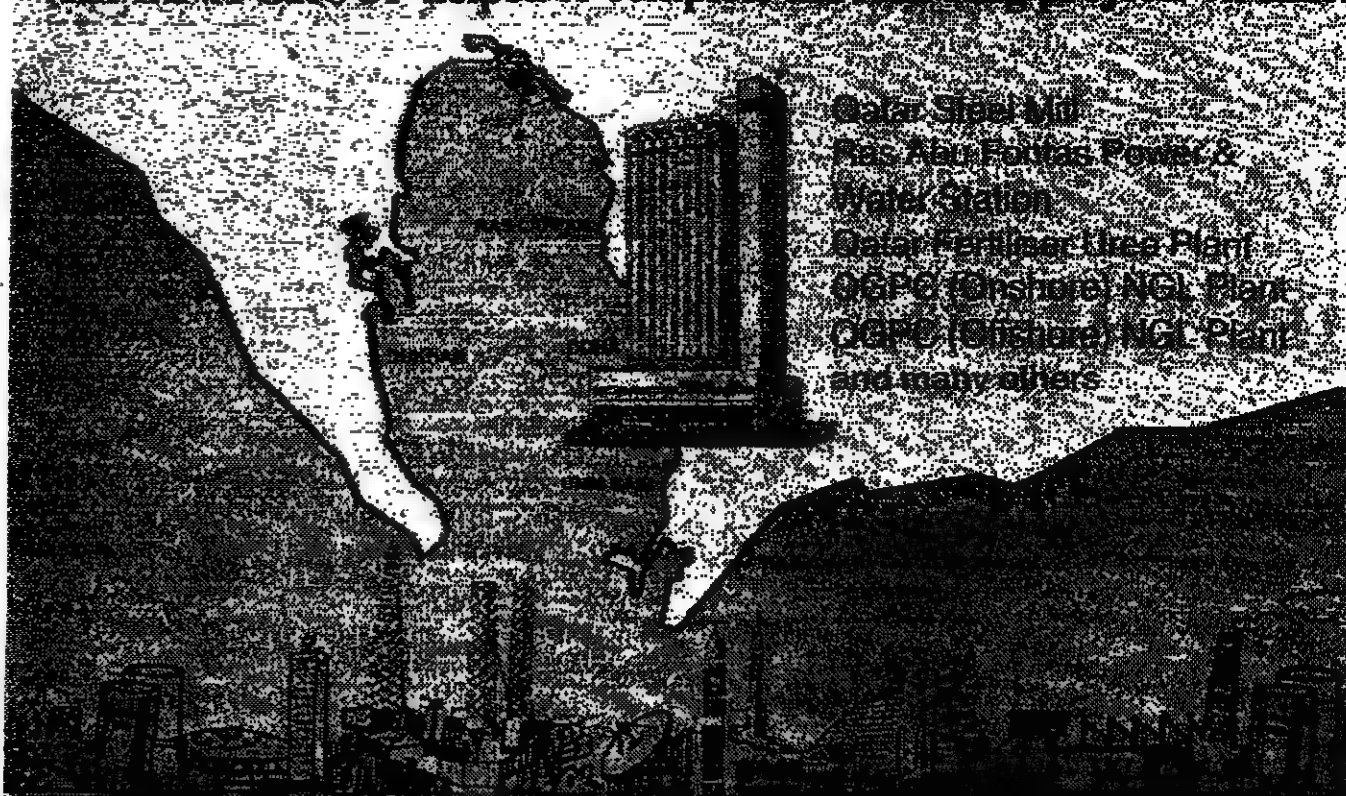
Helping the salvage operation from backstage is the Gulf Folklore Centre in Doha. A more serious, academic establishment, it was set up in 1982 in Qatar as an offshoot of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). What the Department of Culture is trying to do for Qatar, the Folklore Centre is trying to do for the whole Gulf - give it a soul and a feeling of togetherness. Although the GCC countries have many things in common, the concept of a single geo-political entity is new and needs a lot of reinforcing if it is to be an effective political force.

Again there is an important focus on the elderly, and their oral reminiscences of life in the desert and on the sea, the two dominant themes of Gulf culture.

"We have lost so many grandparents," says the director, Mr Ali Abdullah al-Khalifah, a noted Bahraini poet in both the classical and popular tradition. "We are racing against time."

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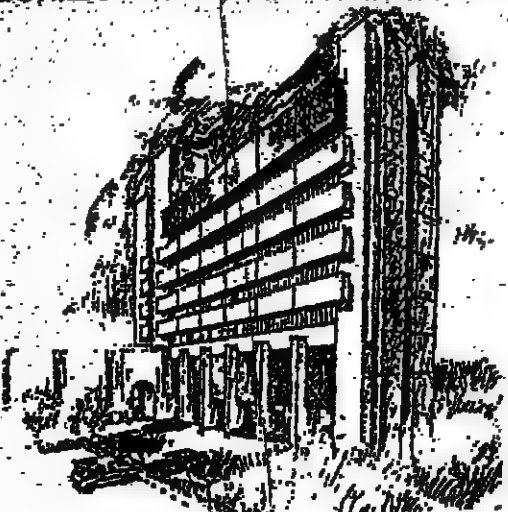
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Musical roots: A cushion for Western culture

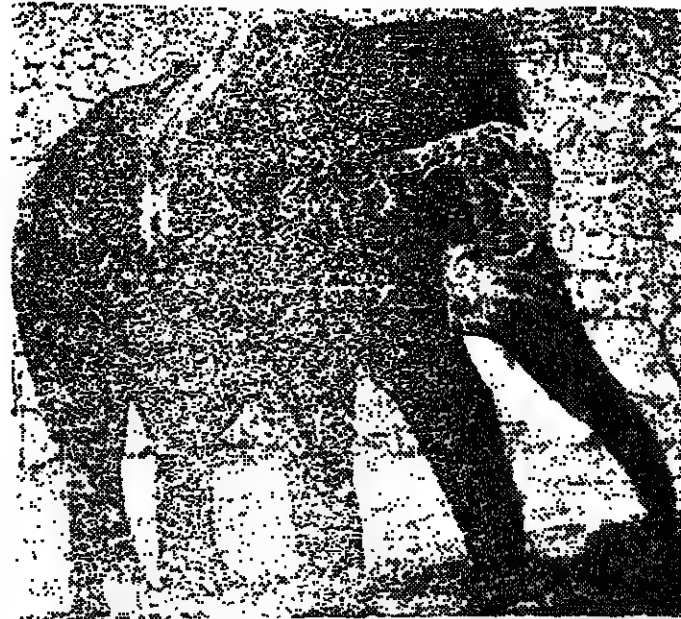


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A 'Noah's Ark' on the wing



Jumbo decoration: Aloti, an Indian elephant

Playing the Band in the desert

Three nights of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with its convoluted problems of passion, filled Doha's little theatre with instant Shakespeare enthusiasts last month. Next evening similar problems, albeit more political, came to the stage in *Mutashajjah*, the latest production of the Qatari National Theatre, now on tour at the festival of Arab and African drama in Tunisia.

Gulf sensitivities preclude satires on known individuals but mankind, even Arab mankind, is fair game for the Qataris.

The plot of *Mutashajjah* is more straightforward than Shakespeare's. The title translates, more or less, as throwing stones at each other, or tit-for-tat. Playwright Ghannim al-Salayhi has written what he calls a "timeless fantasy"; it is also tongue-in-cheek topical.

Two brothers ruling a small country fight, divide the country, go to war against each other, collect allies, meet in conference, refuse to sit down together. "Get together! Sit down! Sit down!" shouts the wretched adjudicator, while the brothers charge at each other across the stage.

The adjudicator is played by Muhammad Abu Jassoum, who is also in charge of the theatre organisation. He has adopted the name of a celebrated Egyptian comedian and lives up to his namesake. The play is a comedy, lamentable enough given present Arab politics.

"We have to discuss Arab themes today," says Ghazi Husain, a director of a local radio station who takes the part of one of the brothers. Other issues that recur in local drama are marital problems (especially the expense of getting married), the student returning from abroad and changing lifestyles in the home.

"We need to laugh at these things," said Abu Jassoum, "otherwise we would be worried all the time."

In true Shakespearean tradition, actors, playwrights and directors exchange roles freely. Abu Jassoum will collect the tickets at the door if necessary.

The theatre, one of the few in the Gulf, has computerised lighting, simultaneous translation, an orchestra pit that goes up and down and a revolving stage. It was designed by British architects whose respect for their own traditions was so great that they included an extensive cloakroom for all those heavy winter coats - in a country where the temperature seldom dips below 65F.

There is no tradition of drama in the Gulf, although all Arabs are born performers, including the poets who were and are famous up and down the region for recitations of their own verse. Drama is a fairly recent introduction, along with television and the desire to be less dependent on imported fare, generally from Egypt.

SS

An entire Noah's Ark of 800 animals was flown from London to Doha for the opening last year of Qatar's new zoological gardens. Ranging from a pair of white rhinos to tiny fruit bats, they travelled in two aircraft. They did not go in two by two, however, but several in each crate. Experts had decided that a bit of a crowd makes for a happier trip, though each group was checked for compatibility beforehand, and young animals were chosen as they travel better and breed more successfully.

The only animals to travel alone were the big cats, in tinned cages for extra security. But even these were carefully positioned inside the aircraft so that they could see each other and derive comfort from this. Each animal had its own individual travel documentation.

Both flights were carefully scheduled to touch down with their 800 passengers in the late evening so that they could acclimatise gradually in the cool night air. The zoo travelled as one huge package largely for reasons of economy, for the cost of flying individual animals on such a scale is astronomical. And there was only one casualty, a lizard, found dead on arrival.

British zoos supplied most of the stock, the majority coming from the Regent's Park Zoo, Whipsnade and Marwell, while the two tigers, Tsar and Tsarina, came from Edinburgh. The Arabian camels were acquired locally, and the heat ruled out polar bears.

No acquisitions came direct



Pretty flamingo: The moat outside the new zoo

from the wild, except for the giraffes from the slopes of Mount Kenya. According to David Jones, director of Regent's Park Zoo, "It takes 30 seconds to catch a giraffe and if you haven't got him in 40 you give up and look for another one." They still cost around £10,000 apiece, delivered door to door, Doha has eleven.

All this was the culmination of several years of detailed planning and careful breeding. As Mr Jones points out, "You can't just buy a zoo off the shelf."

casades all refresh the overheated air.

By starting from scratch, the zoo enjoys the benefits of modern technology that are often difficult to introduce into older buildings. For example, carefully regulated air conditioning has created a near perfect habitat for the thriving community of smaller mammals.

The Regent's Park Zoo was originally called in to advise on the layout. Later it took over the entire running and supplying of the zoological side.

The latest project is a children's zoo, coupled with a giant walk-through aviary. This will be eight times the size of Lord Snowdon's creation in Regent's Park, a real show case of Arabian bird life.

The intention is to educate the children of Qatar in the ecology of their own part of the world. They are being introduced to the various processes of development by a number of live displays. These include butterfly breeding and a shoreline exhibit, with crabs and other relevant fauna.

The zoo hopes, too, to accustom children to handling animals and is selecting suitable ones. They will have camels, of course, with examples of different types. Among the possibilities is a piebald variety from the Sahara, a speciality of the Touareg.

The concept of a zoo is not new to the Gulf, which already had several smaller ones and a number of private menageries. But Qatar is the first to embark on such an ambitious venture, going for the same, high standards as the zoos in our European capitals.

Penny Oakley



Points of interest: Scimitar-horned oryx parade majestically in the paddock at Doha Zoo



Dear deer: Zoo head Ismail Saif and zookeeper Graham Biss

A dance to the music of time

Forty or so teenage boys in a not very large room - hard work for Sami Younis, dance master of the Qatari National Dance Troupe, which was rehearsing in Doha for last week's one-night stand on London.

The boys were mostly students, a representative group of young Qataris. The rehearsal lasted three hours, notable as much for the enthusiasm as for the finesse of the dancers. The enthusiasm was infectious; dancing for these teenagers is a valuable hobby, a means not only of letting off steam but also of travelling, promoting their small peninsula homeland to foreign peoples. Paris, Tunis, Tokyo, now London - it has been a busy year.

There are a hundred members of the troupe of all ages, all Qatari, all boys (the country's Wahhabi Muslim tradition is uncomfortable at seeing girls perform with boys). The troupe was formed in 1977 by Younis, a former ballet dancer from Egypt, invited to Doha by Mr Ismail al-Kuwari, Qatar's Minister of Information. Dancing is a much part of local tradition as oral poetry, weaving and pearling.

Dancers today perform a traditional mixture of song, dance and music, such as the *ayallah* song-dance found in many parts of the Gulf and still performed at weddings and other festivals. Younis himself began collecting dances in Egypt and has continued the good

work in Qatar, collecting them from fishermen and bedouin, helped by the Folklore Centre and the Department of Culture. Another song-and-dance set is the *tamboura*. The words are African and the music comes from 'singing and from such percussion instruments and the *manjur* - a kind of skirt sewn loosely with goats' toe nails that knock against each other as the wearer wiggles his hips. Another dance comes from Bahrain, traditionally sung while threshing grain (There was never any grain in Qatar to thresh in the old days). An old man is brought in to chant, which he does in a wild high-pitched lament, pausing from time to time to chide the boys for not dancing correctly.

Then the boys re-arrange themselves for the *lawla* dance. A thin young Qatari with an African face accompanies them on the *suray*, a wind instrument with a powerful mournful note as if bewailing a vanished past. An unnecessary complaint if the dance troupe is anything to go by.

The founding of the Qatari National Dance Troupe, which is subsidised by the Department of Culture, part of the Ministry of Information, is a manifestation of the government's determination to keep alive an ancient culture which otherwise would fall victim to more strident imports from the West.

SS

Preserving the past for the future

Some people might be surprised to learn that there are antiquities in Qatar, but in fact a great deal has already been discovered and, according to the experts, a great deal more still remains to be dug up.

Probably the best-known archaeological site in the country is the site at Zubarah on the north-west coast of Qatar which is still being uncovered by a team from the Ministry of Information's department of tourism and antiquities, led by Dr Nabil Saroufim. A town of some 400 houses founded in the mid-18th century, it grew to be the most important commercial centre in the country during the 19th century but was later abandoned and fell into ruin.

Reconstructing the Past

A wide variety of finds have been made on the site, including coins (with some of Turkish and Indian origin), cooking pots, glass bangles and clay pipes. All of which help archaeologists to build up a picture of what life was like for the people who lived there at that time. But there are other sites still to be uncovered. Like the 9th century village at Murwab and the many burial grounds which are known to be very old but still have to be dated.

Early traces of man in the shape of implements from the pre-Neolithic period (10th - 8th millennium BC) have also been found, especially around the Umm Bab area. And perhaps even more significant a two-room stone-built house dating from the 6th millennium BC reckoned to be part of an ancient village has been found in south-east Qatar. This shows that people were already settled there.

Important Discoveries

Excavations in Qatar have been going on for many years. Notably by a Danish team between 1956 and 1962 and a French team who began surveys in 1976 and in the course of their six-year mission made many important discoveries, especially from around the areas of al Khor and Murwab. Tools and flints unearthed at al Khor have been dated to the 5th millennium and the discovery of the remains of many different kinds of fish, as well as the tooth of an antelope, suggests that the inhabitants of that era both hunted and fished. Similarly, the discovery of a grinding stone indicates that they also either practised some form of agriculture or gathered wild crops. It is believed that all those years ago the climate of Qatar was very different from what it is now - still hot, but with abundant rain, so that forests covered much of the land.

Unique Carvings

The more recent findings at Murwab - believed to belong to the Islamic Abbasid period - include the remains of nearly 250 houses around what is probably a fort. Artefacts unearthed on the site include broken pieces of pottery, coloured and painted pieces of clay lamps or cups, glass ornaments and pieces of mortar which were probably used for grinding. All this suggests a well-established settlement inhabited over a long period of time.

Rock carvings have also been found at Jebel Jusasiyah, north of al Khor and, it is believed, could date from as far back as 1400 BC. And, according to Danish expert Dr Hans Keipel, nothing quite like them exists anywhere else in the Arab world.

Pre-Historic Finds

Even older finds - though unrelated to man who had not yet made his appearance at the era of prehistory in question - have been turned up in Qatar. During the winter of 1983-84, Dr Peter Whybrow, head of the palaeontological laboratory at the Natural History Museum in London spent three months working on a joint research project with the Scientific and Applied Research Centre at the University of Qatar. The aim of the project was to make a study of the Miocene period in Qatar. Through the detailed study of rocks, they hoped to gain some clues as to what creatures were roaming around this part of world between 16 and 14 million years ago.

It may come as a surprise to learn that even so long ago the Earth was inhabited by creatures that we would recognize today - apes, elephants, rhinoceros, giraffe and certain species of antelope. Miocene rocks, however are mostly marine, so most of the vertebrates

found from that period are things like dolphins, sea cows, rays and fish. Invertebrates include oysters, crabs, sea urchins and large shrimps.

Unchanged Fauna

And, apparently, even over a period of 16 million years, things have not changed too much as regards the fauna of the waters. The fossilised ear ossicle of a 16 million-year-old dolphin found by Dr Whybrow near Abu Samra is very much the same as the ossicle you would find inside the ear of a dolphin swimming in the Gulf today.

There appears to be a fair amount of stuff dating from the Miocene period to be dug up and studied in Qatar, although some of the fossils, unfortunately, are not very well preserved. The shelly structure in many cases has been leached out by later geological events when it was wetter than it is now, so that the invertebrate fossils that can be found lying about in the desert are usually casts of the original structure.

However, this does not apply to sea urchins and both shells and spines of Miocene sea urchins have been found. Such finds, along with the discovery of a new genus of crab, set new records for the Arabian Miocene and changed the geological map of Qatar for the period.

Towards a Comprehensive Survey

The importance of digging up the country's past in order to better understand its history and the need to preserve its ancient artefacts and monuments is being more and more appreciated. A French archaeologist, Claire Hardy Guilbert, who has already done much work in Qatar, has been commissioned by the state tourism and antiquities department to lead a comprehensive survey of the country's historic monuments in order to facilitate their conservation and preservation. The survey is scheduled to start at the beginning of November and will cover all traditional buildings - Islamic forts, houses, mosques and carved doors.

Reconstruction

At the same time, there are plans to begin reconstruction work on some of the buildings excavated at Zubarah and a new museum at al Khor to house the wealth of archaeological finds from that area is expected to open next year. Qatar's past is being brought into the present - and carefully preserved for the pleasure and enlightenment of future generations.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Davison decided to leave Lloyd's

Mr. Hay Davison's resignation as chief executive and deputy chairman of Lloyd's insurance market from next May comes at a critical time for Lloyd's.

Mr. Davison feels he has broken the back of the world he was there to do, particularly on the disciplinary front and the reform, bowing out of a job he did not want and has not enjoyed. The Governor of the Bank of England asked Mr. Davison, previously senior partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountant, to take on the task when Lloyd's fortunes were at their lowest ebb.

The conclusion of Lloyd's disciplinary proceedings in the principal scandals (although there are still lesser scandals being investigated) and the readiness of the ruling council to continue implementing the new rule book make it an appropriate time to go, Mr. Davison says. Lloyd's will today announce the final verdicts against the offenders in the notorious PCW affair.

The real push, however, came because of an attempt by Lloyd's to downgrade the office of chief executive while Mr. Davison was still in it.

Mr. Davison says in his resignation letter that his own views on the paramount necessity of an independent chief executive, responsible directly to the council, have not changed and he would find it impossible to continue in office where the terms of reference of the job to be significantly altered.

Lloyd's seems to be looking for a lower-profile chief executive, who is more of a backroom administrator than a driving force on the council. This would not suit Mr. Davison, but the time may be ripe for it at Lloyd's.

Mr. Davison has not found it easy to buckle down to a desk job and he number two to Lloyd's chairman, Peter Miller.

As Andersen's senior partner, he was used to being top dog and travelling the world in an ambassadorial role. Mr. Miller reserves that role strictly for himself at Lloyd's. Relations between the two men can only be described as frosty and it is notable that Mr. Miller's statement on the resignation expresses gratitude for Mr. Davison's contribution, but no regret at the resignation.

Mr. Davison's achievements have been considerable. But there is still much to be done, particularly in the field of regulating brokers, underwriting and underwriting and issuing guidelines on correct reserving levels. There is also the looming shadow of what Lloyd's will do with the aftermath of PCW affair. PCW names are set to sue Lloyd's and several large Lloyd's brokers.

It has to be hoped that the council really is committed to continuing the task of reform. Mr. Miller, who was re-elected chairman yesterday certainly is. The impetus to get things done, however, must suffer from the loss of someone with Mr. Davison's drive.

The bitter pill at Beecham

Chairmen of public companies could be forgiven if they now think twice about agreeing to the appointment of the formidable Lord Keith of Castleacre to their board. For the second time in a little over three months he has stepped into the chair of a predecessor who was too slow on the draw for this forthright merchant banker's taste.

In August, Sir Kenneth Corfield was ousted as head of STC, the electronics and telecommunications group, after a coup by the non-executive directors. Yesterday, it was the turn of the hapless Sir Ronald Halstead, who has been chairman of Beecham Group for only 15 months.

Profits in the first half of Beecham's current year rose by only £3.5 million to £148.8 million, a truly meagre performance for what has been regarded as one of the country's most solid growth companies. "Other than an act of God, second-half profits will remain probably level with the first half, if not a little better," Lord Keith added.

That would imply a fall from last year's total profit of £305 million. Doubtless the new chairman will take a more severe view of write-offs than Sir Ronald, but the

stock market, took note of Lord Keith's admission that there have been missed opportunities and the company had lost direction. Beecham shares ended the day 33p down at 293p.

It has to be said that Sir Ronald was not the best of choices to follow in the wake of the redoubtable Sir Graham Wilkins, now ironically installed as a stop-gap head of Thorn-EMI after the sudden departure of Sir Peter Laister. Sir Ronald's skills were primarily in the field of marketing, and although he could not be denied the ultimate prize he proved too limited for the strategic challenges which lay and still lie in Beecham's path.

The episode also gives a fascinating insight into the role of non-executive directors. Lord Keith has been a director of Beecham since 1949. Sir Ronald must have been rash indeed to ignore any hints of displeasure from such a longstanding board member. And was he appointed in the teeth of Lord Keith's opposition or not? The board minutes of the past couple of years must read like something out of *Dallas* or *Dynasty*.

Tempos, page 25

Acronyms and home truths from SW1

Of all industries financial services of which the City is the hard, shining core, has most to lose from a Conservative defeat at the next general election. The big bang would become a nightmare of destruction; international bankers and securities dealers would put away their ambitious London plans; newer markets, in which London is already making a mark, would emigrate.

The Tories can rely on the City for political contributions and for votes; but they cannot rely on the tone of the financial community's responses to government economic and financial policy, not on its attitude to sterling.

The pound is already in a sensitive condition, sustained only by high interest rates. There is still a general and justified willingness to give Mrs. Thatcher high marks for her Government's achievements in bringing down inflation, raising standards of performance in industry, and maintaining a good rate of healthy growth. There is also a twitchiness, caused by a suspicion that the Government is prepared to depart as far from the path of fiscal rectitude as it needs to find the money for tax-cutting and other vote-catching schemes.

Today's Autumn Statement from the chancellor, as last night's Mansion House speech by the Prime Minister, will be minutely scrutinized for signs of departing virtue. The City has not taken kindly to Nigel Lawson's more relaxed view of monetary aggregates; the same sort of juggling with public spending overruns and public spending borrowing requirement forecasts would not go down at all well.

While they are waiting, analysts have been investigating the inner meaning of the acronym on which most of the young Turks have been reared. Hence MTFS, which used to stand for Medium Term Financial Strategy, is now seen as Mrs. Thatcher's Final Solution for the economy. TINA, aptly described the rigour of the Government's early economic strategy; some, like the Pentagon, now prefer RITA or even TIARA as more accurately catching the emphasis of policy. RITA stands, of course, for Reflation is the Answer, while TIARA appeals to those who sense there is a Reflationary Alternative. This might also serve as the working title for a new soap opera set in Buckingham Palace and the Square Mile.

Some analysts, still snarling under the "Young Turks" description caustically applied to them at the last important Mansion House speech in October, delivered by the Chancellor, now talk disrespectfully of the maverick policies pursued by the "Old Greeks" at the other end of town. They may not have justice on their side, as they grumble, but they do have Virgil. Was the great Roman poet anticipating the privatization programme when he wrote, 2,000 years ago: "*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*" - Beware Greeks bearing gifts?

Industrial costs over year fall by record 4.6 per cent

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Industry's raw material and fuel costs fell by 1 per cent last month, because of the pound's strength and weak commodity prices. Costs, measured over 12 months, fell by 4.6 per cent, the biggest ever decline.

There was also encouraging news on the prices charged by industry, which rose by 0.3 per cent last month, to stand 5.1 per cent higher than a year earlier. This equalled the 12-month rise to March 1983, the lowest since the present series began in January 1974.

However, these optimistic signs were countered by figures showing a 1.2 per cent drop in retail sales last month, after a 1.4 per cent decline in September. Sales fell to their lowest level since April.

Manufacturing industry's non-labour input costs have been falling steadily since February, mirroring the pound's rise. The index of materials and fuels purchased stood at 131.5 (1980=100) last month, 11 per cent down on the February level and 4.6 per cent lower than October 1984.

Government statisticians ran through the records of both present and previous input price series yesterday and said

that the 12-month drop was the largest ever. In September, input costs were 1.8 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Industry's raw material and fuel costs are likely to show a rise this month with the switch to winter fuel tariffs, but a further decline in the 12-month rate is possible.

The 0.3 per cent rise in factory gate prices last month was slightly larger than the average in the past few months. Even so, it was sufficient to cut the rate at which output prices have risen over 12 months from 5.4 to 5.1 per cent.

Price increases were modest in the food, drink and tobacco industries, with a rise of just 0.2 per cent between September and October. In the 12 months to October, prices increased by 3.4 per cent, down from the 3.9 per cent rate in September.

The City was taken by surprise with the announcement of a 1.2 per cent fall in retail sales volume last month, against expectations of a 0.5 to 1.0 per cent rise after September's fall.

The index of sales volume last month was 114.5 (1980=100), the lowest since April and

the same as in December last year. Sales of clothing and footwear, which fell by 1.4 per cent in September, dropped again last month.

Retail sales surged in August, after a strong June and July. The electricity price by more than the rate of inflation next year.

However, the 2.6 per cent fall in sales volume since August suggests an underlying weakness.

Commerce urges cut in loan rates

High interest rates are imposing an excessive burden on industry and hitting employment prospects and small companies hard, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce says today.

The association's third-quarter regional business survey shows the trend of export orders and deliveries down in all areas. There is evidence of increased import penetration in the home market, the association says.

Employment prospects, which

brightened in the second quarter, have deteriorated and "there is certainly no evidence of a significant fall in unemployment in prospect."

Small companies according to London Chamber of Commerce findings, have suffered most from the drop in export orders.

Mr. Tommy Macpherson, chairman of the association's economic and industrial committee, says in a letter to the

Chancellor that interest rates "must fall substantially."

He pledges the support of the association for increased spending on the inner cities but gives a warning against raising gas and electricity prices by more than the rate of inflation next year.

Mr. Macpherson criticizes the Chancellor and Mr. Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, for dismissing the report by the Lords Committee of Overseas Trade.

14,000 may join Vickers buyout

By Teresa Poole

The management of the Vickers shipyard, due to be privatized next year, unveiled detailed plans for one of the biggest British employee buyouts.

The yard, at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, was put up for sale last month. The loss-making Cammell Laird yard at Birkenhead is included in the package.

The yards are expected to raise up to £70 million, and considerable interest has already been shown by engineering and defence companies including Trafalgar House and General Electric. The Vickers yard, which provides the only British capacity for building nuclear submarines, is to construct the submarines for the Trident missiles.

The directors of Vickers and Cammell Laird have formed a consortium to bid for the two yards and all 14,000 employees will be invited to participate. The consortium intends to seek a Stock Exchange listing in due course but this will not be until after the next general election.

The Labour Party has said it would cancel the Trident project and, although there should then be enough conventional shipyard work to keep the yards busy, the uncertainty is thought to stand in the way of an earlier flotation.

Advisers to the consortium are Lloyds Merchant Bank and Hoare Govett, the broker.

Lucas shake-up puts 12,000 jobs at risk

By Ian Griffiths

Lucas Industries will decide the fate of the 12,000 workers in its loss-making electrical division within the next few months. Continuing problems have forced an intensive review of operations which could result in closures and job losses.

Mr. Godfrey Messervy, Lucas Industries' chairman and chief executive, said action would be taken this year but he would not give details.

He was announcing a 77 per cent increase in pretax profits to £57.8 million from £32.6 million for the year to July 31. Sales increased to £1,498.9 million from £1,397.1 million.

Lucas is asking shareholders for a further £89.4 million by way of a one-for-four rights issue at 365p. The news was well received in the City with the shares closing up 18p at 466p. Shareholders are rewarded with a final dividend of 8.4p, making 11p for the year, an increase of 28 per cent.

The money will initially be used to halve the group's borrowings. However, Lucas also wants to expand its activities particularly in the aerospace and industrial division. Tempos, page 25

Hongkong likely to reject System X

From Jeremy Warner, Hong Kong

More bad news on the way for System X, the British digital telephone exchange system, in its bid to win significant export orders.

Hongkong Telephone Company (Telco), the Cable and Wireless subsidiary which operates the colony's telephone service, is expected to decide against using the system in modernizing its fast-growing network.

System X is one of four systems being considered by Telco for work up to HK\$1,500 (£150 million) over the next 10 years.

Telco is keen to find an alternative to the Japanese Fujitsu digital exchanges it uses so that it does not have to rely on one supplier. Tenders were invited from four companies - NEC of Japan, LM Ericsson of Sweden, Northern Telecom of Canada and General Electric of Britain which, with Plessey, produces System X.

Although the British bid was

reasonably competitive on price, System X is understood to have failed to meet certain technical requirements and is likely to be ruled out. Ericsson is already providing British Telecom with an alternative to System X for its local exchanges while Northern Telecom is supplying Mercury Communications with its first four exchanges in Britain.

Competition to provide the world's telephone networks with digital systems is becoming fierce. Telco has been installing the Fujitsu exchanges at a cost of less than HK\$1,000 (£100) a line and does not expect the alternative to cost much more. All system X installations in Britain have so far cost above £170 a line.

Telco expects to spend between HK\$250 million a year on digital exchanges in the next 10 years. About half the contracts will be placed with Fujitsu and half with the chosen alternative.

Offer for Investors Capital

By Lawrence Lever

British Assets Trust, the Edinburgh investment trust, yesterday announced a bid for Investors Capital Trust.

British Assets last month acquired a 19.4 per cent stake in Investors Capital from the Kuwait Investment Office.

The terms of the bid, which is supported by the Investors Capital board, contain provisions for the management to be transferred to Ivory & Sims, switching the investment policy from capital to income growth and increasing dividends, initially to 12p a share, against a current annual rate of 4.1p.

British Assets, which aims to own 51 per cent of Investors Capital, is offering convertible loan stock in exchange for 26 per cent of the company, which values the shares at 269p. County Bank, advisers to British Assets, is providing an alternative cash offer of 242p a share for the 80.6 per cent of Investors Capital which British Assets does not already own.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Recovery at Ansbacher

Henry Ansbacher, the merchant banking group, appears to be recovering after coming near to collapse with losses of £31.4 million last year.

The group yesterday announced interim pretax profits to September 30 of £1.48 million, with an operating profit before expenses of £2.3 million.

Mr. Richard Fenhalls, who took over as executive chairman of Ansbacher after the resignation of Lord Williams in January, said the result was highly encouraging.

An injection of nearly £53 million of new capital in May put the company back on its feet while the most heavily loss making parts of Ansbacher have been disposed of.

The group's profit takes into account all provisions and writing off of goodwill to reserves. It was achieved despite the costs of £20 million borrowings, which were not replaced by new capital until July. Net tangible assets of the group are now more than £44.5 million.

Bank withdraws credit cards

Lloyds Bank is withdrawing all its retail credit card schemes from 31 January because customers are not spending enough.

Three months' notice of withdrawal is being sent to 100,000 cardholders in schemes operated for Lloyds by Access.

Lloyd's names on syndicate 895 have won the right to have their case for overwriting and breach of contract against their managing agent, Spicer & White, heard in court. Spicer & White, owned by Willis Faber, wanted the case settled by arbitration. The names did not succeed in securing an interim payment for damages.

Bedford in talks

Bedford, General Motors' loss-making British truck and van operation, is continuing joint venture talks with Leyland, having rejected other European commercial vehicle companies as potential partners.

Sparrow's No

G W Sparrow & Sons, the crane hire and equipment sales company, announced yesterday its formal rejection of a takeover bid from BET valuing it at £6.2 million.

WHEN you first handle a Patek Philippe, you become aware that this watch has the presence of an object of rare perfection. We know the feeling well. We experience it every time a Patek Philippe leaves the hands of our craftsmen. You can call it pride. For us it lasts a moment; for you, a lifetime. We made this watch for you - to be part of your life - simply because this is the way we've always made watches. And if we may draw a conclusion from five generations of experience, it will be this: choose once but choose well. A Patek Philippe - because it's for a lifetime.



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Omega owners launch rescue package

Omega, the loss-making division of Switzerland's top watchmaker, is being restructured.

Herr Ernst Thomke, vice-president of Société Suisse de Microelectronique et d'Horlogerie (SMH), whose other brands include Swatch, Tissot, ETA and Longines, said drastic measures would be taken to put Omega back into profit by 1987.

These measures would include reducing the product range, cutting the workforce by more than half and introducing new marketing and advertising strategies.

Omega, with its rising costs, over-extended product line and lack of new ideas, was a "classic picture of the Swiss watch industry with all the consequences," said Herr Thomke.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	CURRENCIES
FT Ind Ord 1072.0 (-10.5)	RISERS:	London:
FT All Share 671.82 (-4.48)	Micro Focus 150p +40p	£: \$1.4192 (+0.0017)
FT Govt Securities 83.27 (-0.02)	Mahmet Holdings 61p +15p	£: DM 3.7291 (+0.0135)
FT SE 100 1376.2 (-13.9)	Castle (GB) 17p +4p	£: SwF 3.0809 (+0.0056)
Bargains 26,390	Berkley Exp. 90p +17p	£: FF 11.3640 (+0.0438)
Datastream USM 107.61 (+0.41)	HB Electronic 43p +7p	£: Yen 292.26 (+1.80)
New York	Star Computer 38p +5p	£: Index 79.9 (+0.1)
Dow Jones 1413.52 (+9.16)	Rotaprint 4p +0.50p	New York:
Tokyo	Petrol 14p +15p	£: \$1.4200
Nikkei Dow 12821.26 (-29.79)	Bio-Isolates 28p +3p	£: DM 2.5240
Hong Kong	St Group 23.50p +2.50p	£: Index 128.8 (+0.2)
Hang Seng 1722.40 (+0.02)	Lyle Shipping 10p +1p	£: ECU 5.8277
Amsterdam Gen 232.6 (+1.9)	Concentric 80p +7p	SDR 2.758199
Sydney: AO 1081.6 (+19.1)	Humberside Elect. 12p +1p	
Frankfurt	Bentley 25p +2p	
Commerzbank 1742.9 (-12.1)	Gaivor Tin 88p +8p	
Paris: CAC 227.7 (unchanged)	DDT Group 143p +12p	
Zurich	Vosper 229p +13p	
SKA General 456.0 (+1.0)	Sidlaw Group 143p +10p	
	A.B. Electronic 185p +10p	
	Aspiral 145p +10p	
	Falcon Inds. 25p +2p	
	Control Secs 23p +1.50p	
	FALLS:	
	Logica 122p -27p	
	Beecham 293p -33p	
	Intervis Video 5p -0.50p	
	Brewmaster 20p -2p	
	ICC Oil 6p -0.50p	

GOLD

London fixing: am \$323.25pm-\$323.10
close \$322.75-\$323.25 (2227-25)
\$227.75
New York
Comex (Latex) \$322.97

WALL STREET

COMMODITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dow quick to improve

New York (Agencies) - Wall Street moved higher in early trading yesterday, extending the gains of last week.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up at one stage 6.31 points to 1410.67. Advancing issues and declines were close to even on a turnover of 9.09 million shares.

Potlatch Corporation led the active issues, up 1/4 to 42 1/2. The company's board unanimously rejected a \$45 a share offer from First City Financial. The directors also authorized repurchase of up to 20 per cent of the company's own shares.

Mr. Richard Madden, chairman, said: "The board concluded that the interests of stockholders and other constituencies would be served by the continued independence of the company."

The board decided in view of the prolonged depressed condition of the forest products industry and the substantial investment Potlatch has made in its future now would be a poor time to sell the company.

The board said had reviewed the management's evaluation of the long-term prospects of the company and the business background and experience of the Belzberg family which controls First City. IBM was up 1/2 to 132 1/2 and Union Carbide up 1/4 to 60 1/2.

Slightly lower aluminum stocks on the London Metal Exchange were the only ray of sunshine in the otherwise continuing gloom yesterday. Trading in most contracts was

all but dead. The softs were not much better. Coffee was nervous as traders still tried to assess the shortfall in the Brazilian crop. Sugar followed and cocoa

lacked fundamental news. Precious metals were dull, but financials showed some life as dealers grew more confident about the direction of the

dollar. The dollar and the pound both gained - ground slightly in extremely thin and quiet markets yesterday.

Dealers said that with Singapore closed, Brussels and Paris shut for Allister Day and New York closed for Veterans' Day, activity was thin and spreads were narrow.

The pound managed to close with a small advantage, ending 17 points higher against the dollar - at 1.4192 - and firmer

against the mark at 3.7291 (3.7150). It remains firmly underpinned by the high level of British interest rates, but dealers said nervousness about world oil prices remains an inhibiting factor.

The pound is largely being neglected at the moment in favour of the dollar, yen and dollar mark relationships, which are occupying most of the attention.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Other Sterling Rates

Dollar Spot Rates

Investment Trusts

Financial Trusts

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Table with financial data, including interest rates and exchange rates.

مكتبة الأعمال

TEMPUS

Profits rise softens rights issue at Lucas Industries

The rejuvenation of Lucas Industries' share price perhaps owes as much to careful management of news of the company's finances as to careful management of the business.

Since the year-end in July, the news about Lucas has supported, if not created, a growing belief that the shares should be bought. First there was the announcement of a pension contribution holiday worth around £20 million at the pre-tax level this year and next year.

Then, the company coyly refused to comment on talk that a takeover bid was imminent. Finally, weekend Press comment ensured that yesterday's rights issue came as no surprise.

To soften the rights issue further, Lucas also announced excellent preliminary figures. Pretax profits at £57.8 million, against £32.6 million, were up by 77 per cent. It was an impressive performance by any standards. The shares closed up 18p at 466p with the rights issue almost being seen as an excellent opportunity to increase holdings in the company on the cheap.

The rights price of 365p represents a generous discount which should ensure that there is not a lot of spare stock around which might be picked up by a potential predator.

While it is clear that the right price looks good value for investors, what is a little more vague is the reason for having it. The £89 million will be used to halve borrowings in the first place.

Lucas has gone a long way to restructuring its business. The cost has been heavy and the group has spent £125 million on redundancy and reorganization over the last five years.

The last remaining problem area is Lucas Electrical. Once again it incurred heavy losses and the board must decide this year what if any future it has within the group. Further heavy write-offs can be expected.

However, this is perhaps the darkest cloud on the Lucas horizon. Elsewhere both the industrial and aerospace divisions showed good growth.

Even the automotive sector, despite the problems at Lucas Electrical, managed to return increases in sales and profits. The markets were not conducive to rapid growth but with 70 per cent of the group's business still generated from

this sector, Lucas is bound to continue as best it can.

In this year Lucas must be on target for profits of around £100 million. Although the shares have had a good run, there is still sufficient growth to permit some buying, particularly when there is any sign of weakness.

Amersham International

Amersham International's shares adopted some of the properties more associated with the radio activity on which the company has built its reputation. "Fizxardous" and "do not handle" seemed to be the messages emitted yesterday as the price dropped 23p to 303p.

Yesterday's interim results were disappointing enough, with pretax profits down from £8 million to £7.8 million.

More worrying, though, was that the reason for the fall was not currency movements, which might have been expected from a company which has about 85 per cent of its sales overseas, but that Amersham incurred higher than expected development costs.

The underlying sales growth of the business remained basically unchanged at 13 per cent. This is not quite what the City expects from a high technology business. Amersham's operations afford it some luxuries from the stock market, but the line is drawn at no growth, and that is what has happened to profits.

There might be worse news to come in the second half, this time generated by currency. For while Amersham has been able to ward off the exchange fluctuation effects at the pretax level in the first half it may not be quite so successful in the second.

A further depressant may well be the launch of the new Ameritec system in France and West Germany. The group is therefore in line for a period of consolidation and at best the shares should be held.

Beecham

Superficially, yesterday's *coup de palais* at Beecham offers tempting parallels with similar boardroom butchery, some months ago, at Thorn EMI. Some of the personalities are the same, and the push for dynamic action in a situation

of chronic corporate unease has come yet again from the non-executive part of the board.

Yet to concentrate exclusively on the part of the story is to ignore, in a sense, what is the culmination to a running corporate tragedy.

Comparison with Glaxo highlights this point. About 10 years ago, Beecham was a much-fancied glamour stock, while Glaxo was viewed as a group run by boffins incapable of understanding the realities of corporate life.

Glaxo discovered Zantac, perhaps one of the world's most profitable drugs, while Beecham opted to push away from pharmaceuticals and into consumer products.

As Glaxo rides high in the stock market's esteem, yesterday's interim figures from Beecham demonstrate that its present policy mix has run into the sand. A pretax profit figure of just under £149 million, up about 2.4 per cent on last year, is broadly a fairly notional figure, given that acquisitions, currency fluctuations, and changes in the accounting treatment of goodwill have distorted the results.

But comments accompanying the figure stress that such mediocre results show accurately the internal state of affairs at Beecham.

Full-year profits should be broadly unchanged on the £306 million for the year ended March 31 1985.

The board spells out the present position bluntly by stating that during the first six months Beecham showed no organic growth. Plainly, however, the new board is opting for a more emphatic restatement of the present policy mix, insofar as it has background of consumer products, rather than pharmaceuticals.

It is hard to see what other policies might prove viable, granted that the old pharmaceutical side is itself experiencing real trading problems. In the first half, sales were ahead by 13 per cent, but profits were down, reflecting the cumulative impact of British/Japanese price reductions; and the overall absence of real block-busting drugs.

The long-term impact of a flawed strategy surfaced yesterday at Beecham, and the board has no easy options as it struggles to turn the group around. Winning City credibility will not be easy.

Index slips as investors mark time

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares made a poor start yesterday to the trading account which, many believe, will see the FT 30 share index break through the 1,100 points mark.

After the rousing record breaking activity of the last account there were high hopes that the new trading period would get off to a rip roaring start.

But such hopes were soon dashed. Although the market today's Autumn Statement from Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, also prompted some investors to hold off until they had details of the speeches.

So the FT 30 index finished the day 12.2 points down at 1,070.3 points. Although Beecham was a major casualty Blue Circle Industries, Distillers Co. and Imperial Group were among others off colour.

The FT-SE share index also reflected the subdued atmosphere, falling 14.6 points to 1,375.5 points.

Government stocks drifted, slipping up to £7.

While share prices on the main lists chopped and changed direction during the day, there was excitement on the USM pitches as Berkeley Exploration & Production shot 17p higher to 90p.

Talk in the markets said a bid is on the way for the oil minnow, despite the presence of two large shareholders. Charterhouse Petroleum has 22.32 per cent and Elf UK, offshoot of the French oil group, has 27.2 per cent of Berkeley.

At this level the USM-listed company is valued at £16.7 million, though analysts reckon a more likely take-off price is about £27 million. Berkeley has net assets of around 93p a share and potential tax credits which could add more than 60p a share.

Though Charterhouse and Elf are the most obvious bidders for Berkeley, market talk suggested a very different source for an offer. Petronal, the oil

group with exploration and production interests in America, was the name bandied around, and its shares benefited from the City chat.

Petronal, which came to the full lists in early 1984, rose 15p to 140p. The 1984 placing price was 125p.

A spokesman for Petronal said there was no truth in the rumours, though market men insist the company is the source of the excitement. Petronal directors were in a board meeting late yesterday.

At Charterhouse, there were denials of any change in its shareholding in Berkeley, though the company is known to be open-minded about its stake in the USM outfit.

Shares of Smith Bros, the jobber, hit a 199p peak yesterday as speculation about possible moves ahead of next year's Big Bang intensified. N M Rothschild, the merchant banker, has 24 per cent of the equity and last month Gartmore Information and General Trust, part of the Exco financial group, emerged as a 5 per cent shareholder. Rumours persist that Rothschild, which has not arranged to buy full control of the jobber, is poised to sell its shareholding to a group which would be prepared to bid for the rest of the capital.

Cartershouse would consider an offer for its shares, and likewise must have in mind the possibility of itself making an offer for Berkeley.

Analysts who wondered if yesterday's price hike for Berkeley was the result of news from drilling projects were told that was not the case, leaving only the market stories of bid and merger action as a reason for the movement.

Elsewhere among oil shares, prices were generally weaker alongside the market trend, and losses of a few pence were registered for British Petroleum, Britoil, Burmah Oil, Enterprise

Oil, Shell, Tricentrol and Ultramar.

Lasmo shares were also lower, down 6p at 145p, despite news of its first oil find in Colombia. The share price was strong last week on a mixture of market rumours, including takeover talk.

Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, started off in fine form but failed to last the pace and by the close had only a 7p gain at 535p to its credit.

Stores were dull, following the 1.2 per cent October retail sales decline. Beattalls remained firm on takeover hopes and mail order stocks were helped a little by a brokers' circular. But in the main the sector was in ragged retreat.

Beers were weak. Matthew Brown slipped 3p to 520p ahead of the expected publication today of the Monopolies Commission investigation into the bid from Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.

If, as most expect, the bid is cleared the shares of other regional breweries, uncertain yesterday, are expected to surge ahead.

The fifth anniversary of the USM was "celebrated" by a champagne reception held by County Bigsod, the jobber which deals in all junior market shares, and a firm performance by newcomer Ronald Martin Group which opened at 96p.

Shares of the office equipment and stationery group were placed by Panmure Gordon & Co., the broker, at 90p.

The Datastream USM share index was up 0.41 points to 107.61 points. The Datastream calculation, therefore, shows that the USM has, despite its

clear success in many directions, lagged sadly behind the main market.

Lucas Industries caused a stir among the motor and engineering companies. Profits and rights issue news sent the shares up to 475p at one stage, though by the end of the day the price was back at 466p, a net gain of 18p.

Pentland Industries, the industrial group headed by Mr Stephen Rubin, is expected to have a cheerful tale to tell when it meets City analysts tomorrow. The shares slipped 5p to 325p yesterday but are in the running to be one of the market's top performers for 1985. Earlier this year they were down to 98p.

Dealers reckoned the main reason for the heavily-discounted rights issue price - 365p - was fear by the group of a takeover bid. The big discount should ensure that the issue goes well and does not leave any loose stock around for a predator to pick up.

With business going so well for Lucas, the shares are also right to buy on fundamentals, say the analysts. All in all, it means the share price still has plenty of mileage in it and predictions of 600p a share for Lucas, made in these columns some weeks ago, look on target.

Avon Rubber and BBA Group shared in the market approval of good trading news in the motor industry and Avon rose 8p to 328p, while BBA gained 5p to 341p. BBA announced useful acquisitions yesterday to improve the company's status in the belting supplies business.

RECENT ISSUES

AMS Industries 5p Ord (65)	107-1	Martin (Roths) 10p Ord (90a)	96
Colson Com Ltd 50.00 (90a)	108	Mazda 10p Ord (161a)	69
Cent Asia Tr 15p Ord (141)	94	Orestal 10p Ord (184a)	140
C FM 5p Ord (125a)	94	Radice 5p Ord (95a)	95-2
Cowells 2p Ord (18a)	120-1	St Ives Group 10p Ord (130p)	46
Davidson Pearce 10p Ord (16a)	90-2	Stanwick 3p Ord (175)	176-3
Edwards 10p Ord (12a)	104-2	Underwoods 10p Ord (180p)	301-7
Electronic Data Proc 5p Ord (75a)	75		
Galbraith 10p Ord (12a)	68		
Gibson Lyons 10p Ord (72a)	68		
InfraRed 20.10 Com 50 (94a)	63-2		
Just Rubber 10p Ord (62a)	86		

Traded option highlights

Volume in the traded options market was high again yesterday at 14,116 contracts traded. The total reflects the generally improved level of business in the City in recent weeks, though much of the day's LTO action was concentrated in a handful of options.

BT registered the biggest volume, at 1,918, and Court-aids saw 1,668 contracts traded. Beecham chalked up 1,329 and Marks and Spencer 1,351 contracts. There were few significant price changes among options.

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* £3.35 m profit—up 18%

* 2.1p dividend per ordinary share. Increase of 25%

* Property portfolio value reached £78.2 m—increase of £7.1 m

* Net asset value per share now 160p

* Rental income increased by 17.5%

* One for two capitalisation issue

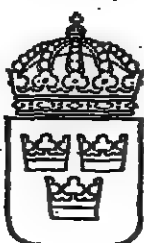
Allied London Properties Plc
Allied House 26 Manchester Square London W1M 6EU.

This Prospectus includes particulars given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland ("The Stock Exchange") for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to the issue by the Kingdom of Sweden (the "Kingdom") of £100,000,000 Loan Stock 2014 (the "Stock"). The Kingdom has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or opinion. The Kingdom accepts responsibility accordingly.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List for quotation in the Gilt-edged market.

The Stock will be available either in registered form, transferable in amounts and multiples of one penny, or, at the option of the holder, in bearer form, represented by bearer bonds which will be available in the denomination of £10,000. Stock in registered form may be exchanged for bearer bonds and vice versa at any time after 21 May, 1986. Renounceable allotment letters (partly paid) in respect of the Stock will be despatched on Wednesday, 20 November, 1985. Certificates in respect of Stock in registered form and bearer bonds in respect of Stock in bearer form will be available on 21 May, 1986 provided the balance of the moneys payable has been duly paid.

The application list will open at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 14 November, 1985 and will close later the same day.



Kingdom of Sweden

Issue by tender of

£100,000,000 Loan Stock 2014

The Minimum Tender Price will be determined on 13 November, 1985 as set out in "Determination of Minimum Tender Price and Rate of Interest" below.

Payable as to £30 per cent. of the nominal amount on application and as to the balance of the Allotment Price (as defined below) not later than 30 April, 1986 with interest payable half yearly on 15 March and 15 September.

The issue has been underwritten by

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited

Hambros Bank Limited

Kleinwort, Benson Limited

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

County Bank Limited

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

Each application for Stock must be made in the form of the tender form provided herewith, should be lodged with National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD, by not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 14 November, 1985 and must comply with the provisions of "Terms of Payment in Respect of Applications" below.

Applications for Stock must be for a minimum of £100 nominal amount of Stock and thereafter for the following multiples of Stock:

Amount of Stock applied for	Multiple
£100 to £20,000	£100
£20,000 to £200,000	£200
£200,000 to £1,000,000	£1,000
£1,000,000 or greater	£250,000

Each application must be for one amount and must state the tender price of the Stock for which application is made. Applications will only be considered for acceptance at the Minimum Tender Price (see "Determination of Minimum Tender Price and Rate of Interest" below) or at a higher price which is an integral multiple of 12½p per £100 nominal amount of Stock. Applicants wishing to tender at the Minimum Tender Price should tick Box A on the Tender Form.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, on behalf of the Kingdom, reserves the right to reject any application and to accept any application in part only. If any application is not accepted the amount paid on application will be returned by post at the risk of the person submitting the application without interest and, if any application is accepted for a smaller amount of Stock than that applied for, the balance of the amount paid on application will be so returned without interest. Pending subscription or return such amounts paid will be held in a separate account.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, on behalf of the Kingdom, will announce the basis of allotment by 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 15 November, 1985. It is expected that confirmation of allotments will be despatched on that day. Acceptances of applications for Stock will be conditional upon, inter alia, the Council of The Stock Exchange admitting the Stock to the Official List on or before Wednesday, 20 November, 1985. No applications for Stock will be accepted or, as the case may be, acceptances of applications for Stock will become void, if the Underwriters exercise their right to terminate the Underwriting Agreement if the conditions are not fulfilled (see "General Information—Underwriting Arrangements" below).

TERMS OF PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS

Each application, unless made by a recognised Bank or Stockbroker taking advantage of the alternative method of payment described below, must be accompanied by a cheque made payable to "National Westminster Bank PLC" and crossed "Sweden Loan", representing payment at the rate of £30 per cent. of the nominal amount of Stock applied for. Such cheques must be drawn on a branch in the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands of a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques to be cleared through the facilities provided for the members of those Clearing Houses.

The alternative method of payment is available only to recognised Banks or Stockbrokers who irrevocably undertake in the tender forms lodged by them to pay National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD, for credit to the account designated "Sweden Loan" by 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 November, 1985 the amount in Town Clearing Funds representing payment at the rate of £30 per cent. of the nominal amount of Stock in respect of which their applications shall have been accepted.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, on behalf of the Kingdom, reserves the right to instruct National Westminster Bank PLC to retain the relevant allotment letters and to delay the return of surplus application moneys (if any) pending clearance of applicants' remittances.

The balance of the amount payable on any Stock allotted must be paid so as to be cleared on or before 30 April, 1986. Such balance may be paid in advance of its due date but no discount will be allowed or interest paid on such balance for any period prior to 30 April, 1986. Failure to pay such balance when due will render all amounts previously paid liable to forfeiture and the allotment liable to cancellation. Interest at the rate of two per cent. above the base rate from time to time of National Westminster Bank PLC may be charged on such balance if accepted after its due date. The Kingdom further reserves the right, in default of payment of such balance, to sell any such Stock fully paid for its own account.

The expression "recognised Bank or Stockbroker" shall mean any organisation which is a recognised bank for the purposes of the Banking Act 1979 and any firm of stockbrokers who is a member of The Stock Exchange and such other banks or brokers as Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, on behalf of the Kingdom, shall at its absolute discretion agree for the purposes of the issue.

The expression "Town Clearing Funds" shall mean a cheque or banker's payment for £10,000 or more drawn on a Town Clearing Branch of a bank in the City of London.

DELIVERY

Renounceable allotment letters (partly paid) in respect of Stock allotted will be despatched on Wednesday, 20 November, 1985 by first class post to, and at the risk of, the person submitting the application in accordance with the instructions stated on the tender form.

Allotment letters may be split up to 3.00 p.m. on 28 April, 1986 in accordance with the instructions contained therein into denominations or multiples of £100 nominal amount of Stock in registered form and £10,000 nominal amount of Stock in bearer form.

Unless a duly renounceable allotment letter with the registration application form and/or the form of application for Stock in bearer form duly completed is received by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD, on or before 30 April, 1986, the Stock represented by such allotment letter will, provided it is fully paid, be registered in the name of the original allottee and thereafter Stock in registered form will be transferable only by instrument of transfer.

Allotment letters will provide for Stockholders to elect to take delivery of Stock in bearer rather than registered form. Stock in bearer form will be represented by bearer bonds which will be available in the denomination of £10,000.

Each Stockholder who elects in the allotment letter to receive bearer bonds may elect to receive them in one of the three following ways:

(a) by collection from the offices of National Westminster Bank PLC, Stock Office Services, 20 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1EJ;

(b) by post at the risk of the applicant. National Westminster Bank PLC will insure any package destined for an address in the United Kingdom provided a cheque payable to National Westminster Bank PLC is enclosed with the allotment letter made out for 25p per £10,000 nominal amount of bearer bonds to be sent (minimum payment 25p). Insurance rates for other countries will be quoted on request; or

(c) by delivery to an existing account with Euro-clear or CEDEL S.A.

Bearer bonds are expected to be available for delivery on and after 21 May, 1986.

Stock certificates in respect of Stock in registered form will be despatched to the registered holders (in the case of joint holders to the first named) at their registered addresses by National Westminster Bank PLC on 21 May, 1986. After such date the relevant allotment letters will cease to be valid for any purpose.

No Stock certificate will be issued and no bearer bond will be delivered unless the Stock to be represented thereby is fully paid.

DETERMINATION OF MINIMUM TENDER PRICE AND RATE OF INTEREST

The Minimum Tender Price of the Stock will be determined on the following basis:

At or as soon as possible after 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 November, 1985 Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited shall determine the Gross Redemption Yield rounded to three places of decimals (with 0.0005 being rounded upwards) on 13½ per cent. Treasury Stock 2004-06, the price of such Treasury Stock to be the arithmetic mean, rounded to four places of decimals (with 0.00005 being rounded upwards), of the bid and offered prices quoted cum dividend on a dealing basis for settlement on the following business day by three jobbers in the Gilt-edged market. Gross Redemption Yields will be expressed as a percentage and will be calculated on the basis indicated by the Joint Index and Classification Committee of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries as reported in the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries Vol. 105, Part 1, 1979, page 18. The sum of 0.75 per cent. and such Gross Redemption Yield shall be the Gross Redemption Yield used in the determination of the Minimum Tender Price of the Stock (the "Underwriting Yield"). The Minimum Tender Price per £100 nominal amount of Stock and the rate of interest attaching to the Stock shall respectively be such price rounded to the nearest 1p (with 1p being rounded upwards) as shall be nearest to (but not less than) 286 per cent. and such rate of interest, being an integral multiple of ¼ per cent., as would result in the Gross Redemption Yield on the Stock being equal to the Underwriting Yield.

It is intended that the Minimum Tender Price, the rate of interest attaching to the Stock and the Underwriting Yield will be published in the Financial Times on Thursday, 14 November, 1985.

DETERMINATION OF ALLOTMENT PRICE AND BASIS OF ALLOTMENT

Applications will be ranked in descending order of price and allotments will be made against applications which are at or above the lowest price at which Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, on behalf of the Kingdom, decides that any application shall be accepted (the "Allotment Price"), which shall not be less than the Minimum Tender Price. The lowest price at which Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited will decide that applications shall be accepted will be the highest price at or above which applications are received for the total nominal amount of the Stock. All allotments will be made at the Allotment Price. Applications which are accepted and which are made at prices above the Allotment Price will be allotted in full. Applications made at the Allotment Price may be allotted in full or in part only. Successful applicants will be notified by letter to be despatched not later than 15 November, 1985 of the amount of Stock in respect of which their applications have been accepted. It is intended that the Allotment Price, the basis of allotment, the Gross Redemption Yield at the Allotment Price and the amount of the first interest payment will be published in the Financial Times on Friday, 15 November, 1985.

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE STOCK

The issue of the Stock was authorised by a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Riksgäldskontoret (the Swedish National Debt Office), representing the Kingdom, passed on 7 November, 1985 and will be constituted by a Deed Poll to be entered into by the Kingdom. The following is a summary of, and is subject to, the detailed provisions of the Deed Poll, copies of which will be available for inspection at the offices of the Registrar and the paying agents referred to below.

Status

The Stock will be a direct, unconditional and general obligation of the Kingdom and the full faith and credit of the Kingdom will be pledged for the due and punctual payment of the principal and interest in respect of the Stock and for the performance of all obligations of the Kingdom with respect thereto. The Stock will rank pari passu with all other unsecured indebtedness (as that term is defined in the Deed Poll) of the Kingdom from time to time outstanding.

Form

The Stock will be available either in registered form ("Registered Stock") or in bearer form ("Bearer Stock"). On and after 21 May, 1986 and subject as hereinafter provided, Registered Stock may be exchanged in nominal amounts of £10,000 or integral multiples thereof for Stock in bearer form and Bearer Stock may be exchanged for Registered Stock. Bearer Stock will be represented by bearer bonds which will be available in the denomination of £10,000 each (the "Bearer Bonds").

All applications for the exchange of Registered Stock for Bearer Bonds and vice versa shall be made by the holders of Registered Stock or Bearer Bonds, as the case may be, lodging an application for exchange duly completed, in accordance with the instructions printed thereon, at the office of the Exchange Agent referred to below and will be irrevocable.

The Initial Exchange Agent and the Initial Registrar is National Westminster Bank PLC at Stock Office Services, 20 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1EJ and Registrar's Department, P.O. Box 82, 57 Broad Street, Bristol BS60 7NH respectively.

The Registered Stock will be transferable in amounts and multiples of one penny by an instrument in writing as if the Stock were a security to which Section 1 of the Stock Transfer Act 1963 of Great Britain applied.

The Bearer Bonds will be transferable by delivery.

Interest

The Stock will bear interest from 20 November, 1985 at a rate per annum to be determined in accordance with "Determination of Minimum Tender Price and Rate of Interest" above. Interest will be payable (less, where applicable, United Kingdom income tax) by equal half yearly instalments on 15 March and 15 September in each year except that the payment of interest in respect of the period from 20 November, 1985 to 15 September, 1986 will be made on 15 September, 1986 and will be calculated using the following formula:

$$Z1 = \left(\frac{161}{365} \times \frac{30}{P} \times R \right) + \left(\frac{136}{365} \times R \right)$$

where Z1 is the first payment of interest on £100 nominal amount of Stock;

R is the percentage rate of interest attaching to the Stock; and P is the Allotment Price.

Interest will cease to accrue on the Stock on the due date for redemption thereof unless payment of principal is improperly withheld or refused.

In respect of repayments of principal, and of payments of interest on Bearer Bonds, the Kingdom will at all times maintain a paying agent in London and in at least one country in continental Western Europe.

Redemption and Purchase

The Kingdom will redeem the Stock at par on 15 September, 2014.

The Kingdom may at any time purchase Stock on the Stock Exchange or by tender (available to all Stockholders alike) or by private treaty but not otherwise, in the case of purchases on the Stock Exchange or by tender, the price, exclusive of expenses and accrued interest, will not exceed the average of the middle market quotations of the Stock on the Stock Exchange as reported in the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries Vol. 105, Part 1, 1979, page 18. The sum of 0.75 per cent. and such Gross Redemption Yield shall be the Gross Redemption Yield used in the determination of the Minimum Tender Price of the Stock (the "Underwriting Yield"). The Minimum Tender Price per £100 nominal amount of Stock and the rate of interest attaching to the Stock shall respectively be such price rounded to the nearest 1p (with 1p being rounded upwards) as shall be nearest to (but not less than) 286 per cent. and such rate of interest, being an integral multiple of ¼ per cent., as would result in the Gross Redemption Yield on the Stock being equal to the Underwriting Yield.

Modification of Rights

The conditions of the Stock, the provisions of the Deed Poll and the rights of the Stockholders are subject to modification by Extraordinary Resolution of the Stockholders as provided in the Deed Poll.

Further Issues

The Kingdom may from time to time without the consent of Stockholders create and issue further stock (whether in bearer or registered form) either ranking pari passu in all respects with the Stock or in all respects save for the amount of and/or the date of payment of the first payment of interest thereon, and so that the same shall form a single series with the Stock.

Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Waiver of Immunity

The conditions of the Stock and the provisions of the Deed Poll will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England except with respect to their authorisation and execution by and on behalf of the Kingdom and any other matters required to be governed by the laws of the Kingdom. The Kingdom will irrevocably agree that any proceedings arising out of or in connection with the Stock may be brought in the English courts or in any competent court in the Kingdom and will submit to the jurisdiction of, and to the extent that it is legally able to do so, will waive irrevocably any immunity to which it might otherwise be entitled in proceedings brought in, each such court.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds to be received by the Kingdom from the issue of the Stock will initially be added to the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves with the Sveriges Riksbank (the Swedish Central Bank) and the kronor equivalent will be credited to Riksgäldskontoret.

STOCK EXCHANGE DEALING

The Stock in both registered and bearer form will be dealt in on the Stock Exchange in the Gilt-edged market. The Stock will normally be traded for settlement and delivery on the working day after the date of the transaction. The price of the Stock will be quoted inclusive of accrued interest. However, with effect from 10 February, 1986 the price of the Stock will be quoted exclusive of accrued interest.

It is expected that dealings on the Stock Exchange will begin on Friday, 15 November, 1985 for deferred settlement on Thursday, 21 November, 1985.

Riksgäldskontoret
(the Swedish National Debt Office)
Jakobsgatan 20
P.O. Box 18 308
S-103 25 Stockholm

Receiving Bank
National Westminster Bank PLC
New Issues Department
P.O. Box 79
2 Princes Street
London EC2P 2BD

Registrar and Transfer Office
National Westminster Bank PLC
Registrar's Department
P.O. Box 82
57 Broad Street
Bristol BS60 7NH

Principal Paying Agent and Exchange Agent
National Westminster Bank PLC
Stock Office Services
20 Old Broad Street
London EC2N 1EJ
Paying Agents
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York
35 Avenue des Arts
B-1040 Brussels
Kreditbank S.A. Luxembourg
48 Boulevard Royal
P.O. Box 1108
Luxembourg

Legal Advisers to the Underwriters

Slaughter and May
35 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 5DB
Advokattfirma Södermark
Birger Järnsgatan 15
S-111 45 Stockholm

Legal Advisers to the Kingdom

Norton, Rose, Bottenell & Roche
Kempson House
Camomile Street
London EC3A 7AN

Brokers

Hoare Govett Limited
Heron House
319-325 High Holborn
London WC1V 7PB

and
The Stock Exchange
W. Graftway & Co.
Bovis Hall House
Broad Street
London EC4M 6EL

and
The Stock Exchange
Rouse & Pitman
1 Finabury Avenue
London EC2M 2PA

and
The Stock Exchange

UNITED KINGDOM TAXATION

The statements below are based on current law and practice in the United Kingdom. They are general in nature, apply only to persons who are the beneficial owners of Stock and may not apply to certain classes of taxpayer (such as dealers). Persons who may be subject to tax in other jurisdictions or who are in any doubt as to their tax position should consult their professional advisers.

United Kingdom income tax at the basic rate (currently 30 per cent.) will be deducted from interest paid on Registered Stock. Holders of Registered Stock who are not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes may apply for exemption from the tax by sending a form A5 to the Inspector of Foreign Dividends.

Such income tax will also be deducted from interest paid on Bearer Bonds by paying agents in the United Kingdom except where a declaration can be made, in the form required by the Inland Revenue, that the holder is the beneficial owner of the interest and of the Bearer Bond and is not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes and provided the interest is not deemed to be the income of a resident of the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

There are certain exceptions to the above where interest is paid to banks carrying on a bona fide banking business in the United Kingdom or where interest on Registered Stock is paid directly to an address abroad.

Paying agents outside the United Kingdom will not deduct United Kingdom income tax from interest on the Bearer Bonds. However, where any person in the United Kingdom obtains payment of interest on the Bearer Bonds on behalf of the holder, that person will deduct United Kingdom income tax except where a declaration can be made, in the form required by the Inland Revenue, that the holder is the beneficial owner of the interest and of the Bearer Bond and is not resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes and provided the interest is not deemed to be the income of a resident of the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

The Stock will be a qualifying corporate bond for the purposes of United Kingdom tax on capital gains. Under the Finance Act 1985, no gain or loss for the purposes of such tax will be realised on any disposal of the Stock on or after 2 July, 1985, and no indexation allowance will be given on any disposal of the Stock effected before that date.

The Stock will not be a deep discount security within the meaning of Section 38 of the Finance Act 1984 for the purposes of United Kingdom tax on income. Notwithstanding that the Allotment Price of the Stock may be below its nominal value, no part of that nominal value paid on redemption of the Stock pursuant to the paragraph headed "Redemption and Purchase" ("Information Relating to the Stock" above) will be treated as subject to United Kingdom tax as income. On a disposal of the Stock (including any disposal on a purchase made by the Kingdom pursuant to the paragraph headed "Redemption and Purchase" under "Information Relating to the Stock" above), it follows that no part of the disposal proceeds received will be treated as subject to tax as income (save for any amount which the new rules introduced by the Finance Act 1985 may treat as representing interest accrued on the Stock in the interest period when the disposal takes place).

CURRENT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE KINGDOM

Economic Developments and Policy

Sweden's gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 1984 by 3.4 per cent. at constant prices. This acceleration in growth from 1983, when GDP rose by 2.5 per cent., primarily reflected some resumption of growth in domestic demand after its depressed state in the preceding year, while exports continued to increase at a rapid, although somewhat declining, rate. The current account showed a surplus in 1984 of \$1.3 billion (0.4 per cent. of GDP), the first such surplus since 1973. In 1984 the balance of trade had a surplus of \$1.3 billion.

In the beginning of 1985, however, Sweden experienced a deterioration in its current account and trade balance. During the first six months of 1985 the balance of payments on current account had an estimated deficit of about \$1.5 billion and the balance of trade an estimated surplus of \$1.5 billion, compared to a current account surplus of \$1.3 billion and a balance of trade surplus of \$1.3 billion in the first six months of 1984. These developments were primarily attributable to an increase in imports, resulting from strong growth in private consumption and investment.

No Government forecast for the current year has been published since April, in October 1985 the Swedish National Institute of Economic Research, an independent public agency (the "Institute"), presented its customary Autumn report. The report forecasts that in the second half of 1985 domestic demand will decline somewhat, particularly private consumption which was earlier in the year financed to an unusually high degree by reduced savings. The Institute expects that aggregate investment activity will level off, following an anticipated decline in residential construction, although business investment is expected to continue to increase. As a consequence, the Institute forecasts a decline in total imports and an increase in export growth in the second half compared to the first half of 1985, resulting in a small current account deficit for the second half of 1985.

The Institute's report predicts that GDP will increase by 2.5 per cent. for the full calendar year 1985. The growth in GDP is expected to come from domestic demand, primarily increased capital investment. The current account deficit for 1985 is estimated at \$1.1 billion, about 1.3 per cent. of GDP. The consumer price index is expected to increase by 5.5 per cent. during 1985, compared to 8.2 per cent. during 1984 and 9.2 per cent. during 1983. During the first nine months of 1985, the consumer price index rose by 3.9 per cent. The Institute estimates that hourly wages will rise during 1985 by about 7 per cent. on average and about 8 per cent. in the manufacturing sector.

The Central Government budget deficit for fiscal 1984/85 amounted to \$1.1 billion and it has declined substantially during the last two years. The National Audit Bureau estimated that the Central Government budget deficit for fiscal 1985/86 will be \$1.8 billion, which is \$1.8 billion less than the Government's estimate made in April 1985. The reduction in the estimated deficit is attributable to larger tax revenues, following increased real domestic growth.

مكتبة النجف

حساب من الأصول

The deterioration in the current account and trade balance in early 1985 led to additional economic policy measures announced on 13 May. The key interest rates and tighter restrictions on lending by credit institutions. The discount rate was raised from 9.5 per cent to 11.5 per cent. The penalty rate (applicable to borrowings by banks from the Riksbank in excess of one-quarter of a bank's capital) was raised from 13.5 per cent to 16 per cent. The ceiling on annual aggregate loan growth of banks and finance companies was lowered from 4 per cent to 2 per cent for 1985, implying substantial limitations on credit expansion for the balance of 1985.

The Government also adopted fiscal policy measures including restrictions on consumer credit purchases, higher taxes on new car purchases and higher stamp duties on real estate mortgages. In addition the Government announced a postponement of Central Government purchases amounting to Skr 1 billion. Corporate liquidity was restricted by requiring companies to deposit in August 1985 an amount equal to 6 per cent of their total annual wage payments in excess of Skr 20 million in an interest-bearing account in the Riksbank. In January 1986 a similar deposit of an amount equal to 4 per cent will be required. These amounts will be kept in the account until 31 March, 1986.

As a result of a substantial inflow of foreign currency during the period following the adoption of the 13 May measures, the Riksbank decided to lower key interest rates on 12 July, 1985 and reduced the discount rate to 10.5 per cent and the penalty rate to 15 per cent. On 24 October the penalty rate was lowered further to 14 per cent. Also, certain consumer credit restrictions have been lifted.

Following the improvement in the inflation rate, a price freeze imposed in March 1985 was lifted sector by sector and was abolished completely on 19 October, 1985.

A general election of members to the Riksdag (Parliament) was held on 15 September, 1985. Following the general election, Mr. Olof Palme commenced a new term as Prime Minister and formed a Social Democratic Government. In its first declaration of intention the new Riksdag, the Government reaffirmed its intention to strengthen the Swedish economy by a continuation of the same economic strategy it has pursued in recent years. The Government stated that the reduction of inflation should proceed and that costs and prices in Sweden should not be permitted to increase faster than in the major competing countries. According to the declaration, an essential prerequisite is that all parties involved in the forthcoming wage negotiations respect this restriction. The Government also stated that a tight fiscal policy is another essential prerequisite for reducing inflation.

Public Debt
At 30 September, 1985, the total debt of the State amounted to Skr 574.2 billion*, of which Skr 417.6 billion* was funded debt and Skr 156.6 billion* was floating debt. Of the total debt, Skr 430.6 billion was internal debt and Skr 143.6 billion was external debt. In addition, the State had outstanding commitments for external credit totalling US\$ 6 billion at 30 September, 1985.

	Funded Debt(2)		Floating Debt(2)		Total Debt(3)
	Internal	External	Internal	External	
31 Dec 1980	135,246	45,854	172,200	—	307,446
1981	189,078	61,319	250,387	—	440,395
1982	218,890	58,401	318,381	—	587,271
1983	310,843	125,820	436,663	—	872,723
1984	320,511	130,147	450,658	—	900,716
30 Sep 1985	282,710	134,850	417,560	147,894	873,014

(1) Both debt does not include debt of State-owned companies or local authorities.

(2) Funded debt consists of debt which matures one year or more from the date of incurrence. Debt with a maturity of less than one year is considered as floating debt. Floating debt consists of debt which matures less than one year from the date of incurrence or which is payable on demand or on less than one year's notice by the holder of such debt.

(3) Translations of amounts in foreign currencies to amounts in Skr have been made at exchange rates in effect on the same dates.

In addition to debt issued directly by Riksgäldskontoret, the Swedish Board of Telecommunications, a Central Government agency, has been authorised to issue debt on the domestic Swedish capital market. At 30 June, 1985, the total debt issued by it amounted to Skr 3.2 billion.

As of 31 December, 1984, the State had guaranteed an aggregate of Skr 95.6 billion of internal debt and the equivalent of Skr 29.9 billion* of external debt.

* Translated at exchange rates in effect on 30 September, 1985.

** Translated at exchange rates in effect on 31 December, 1984.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Underwriting Arrangements

By an Underwriting Agreement dated 11 November, 1985, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, Barings Brothers & Co. Limited, Cusack & Co. Limited, Hambros Bank Limited, H. Samuel & Co. Limited, Kleinwort, Benson Limited, Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited and S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. (the "Underwriters") have agreed with the Kingdom to underwrite the issue of the Stock on the basis that if applications are received for less than the total nominal amount of the Stock of at or above the Minimum Tender Price, the Stock will be issued at the Minimum Tender Price and the amount of Stock for which applications are not so received will be allotted to the Underwriters. The Underwriting Agreement is subject to certain conditions and Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, on behalf of the Underwriters, may terminate the Underwriting Agreement if such conditions are not fulfilled. If the Underwriting Agreement is so terminated, no applications for the Stock will be accepted or, as the case may be, acceptances of applications for the Stock will become void.

The Kingdom has agreed to pay to the Underwriters commissions amounting to 12.5 per cent of the gross proceeds of the issue of the Stock for which applications are not so received will be allotted to the Underwriters. The Kingdom will also pay brokerage of 12.5 per cent of the Stock to recognised Banks or Stockbrokers on allotments made in respect of applications in tender form bearing their stamp; this commission will not, however, be paid in respect of any allotment which arises out of an underwriting commitment. The total expenses of the issue (including the above-mentioned commissions but excluding brokerage) are estimated to amount to about £1,350,000 and are payable by the Kingdom.

General

Euro-clear and CEDEL S.A. have accepted the Bearer Bonds for clearance under code nos. 14887 (Euro-clear) and 154946 (CEDEL). Under present legislation both Registered Stock and Bearer Bonds are transferable free from United Kingdom Stamp Duty.

The Stock is not an investment falling within the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

Copies of the following documents will be available for inspection at the offices of Slaughter and May, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DG during normal business hours until 27 November, 1985:—

- the Underwriting Agreement referred to above;
- a draft, subject to modification, of the Deed Poll referred to above;
- page 18 of the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries Vol. 106, Part 1, 1978; and
- certified translations of extracts from the following Statutes pursuant to which the Stock is to be issued: the Constitution Act (Swedish Code of Statutes 1974: 152) and the Act on the Swedish National Debt Office (Swedish Code of Statutes 1982: 1158).

Additional Copies

Copies of the Prospectus and the tender form can be obtained from:—

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
New Issues Department, 21 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2HS

Hoare Govett Limited
Heron House,
319-325 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PB

and
The Stock Exchange

W. Greenwell & Co.
Bow Belle House, Broad Street, London EC4M 9EL

and
The Stock Exchange

Rowe & Pitman
1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA

and
The Stock Exchange

National Westminster Bank PLC
New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street,
London EC2P 2BD

208 Piccadilly, London W1A 2DG

80 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3JZ

14 Blythwood Square, Glasgow G2 4AQ

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● **TIGER OATS:** For the year to Sept 30, with figures in millions of rand, turnover was 2,795 (2,055.5), while the pretax profit was 169.3 (246 million). Earnings per share were 693 cents (568 cents). A final dividend of 140 cents (115 cents) is being paid on Jan 14, making a total of 230 cents (180 cents).

● **LONDON & PROVINCIAL SHOP CENTRES:** For the year to June 24, with figures in £000, gross rental income was 4,167 (3,972), while the pretax profit was 2,160 (2,027). Earnings per share were 11.38p (10.35p). A final dividend of 2.6p (3p) is being paid, making a total of 4.6p (4p).

● **NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITIES:** For the year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, gross revenue was 1,774 (1,703), while the pretax profit was 1,163 (1,246). Earnings per share were 1.63p (1.64p). A final dividend of 2.4p (2.3p) is being paid, making a total of 3.4p (3.2p).

● **LONDON ENTERTAINMENTS:** For the year to Aug 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 3 (2.5), while the pretax profit was 86 (42). Earnings per share were 8.04p (8.04p). A final dividend of 2.33p (2.12p) is being paid making a total of 2.33p (2.12p).

● **PCT GROUP:** For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 4,274 (4,459), while the pretax profit was 167 (415). Earnings per share were 3.5p (6.7p). An interim dividend of 1.6p (1.6p) is being paid on Dec 27.

● **JERSEY ELECTRICITY:** For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, gross revenue was 12,570 (10,662), while the pretax profit was 641 (1,331).

● **CASTLE (GB):** For the year to July 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 15,744 (16,333), while the pretax loss per share was 1.462p (1.462p). No dividend is being paid.

● **AQUASCUTUM:** For the half-year to July 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 16,336 (13,020), while the pretax profit was 445 (242). Earnings per share were 1.19p (0.72p). An interim dividend of 0.5p (0.75p) is being paid on Jan 6.

● **BBA GROUP:** The company is acquiring the fixed assets, stock, work-in-progress and uncompleted contracts of the solid woven belting business of Unipol of Liverpool. The price is expected to be £1.63 million, but the final figure will be determined on completion. BBA has also purchased the fixed assets and stocks of Boral France, from the receiver of Boral, for £289,000.

● **BLUE CIRCLE HOLDINGS:** The company is to buy Williams Bros. of the US for \$90 million (£63 million) in cash, subject to the approval of Williams' shareholders and the US government. Williams Bros. is a private company based in Georgia, with substantial interests in ready-mix concrete, concrete block production and building materials.

● **NORMAN GROUP:** The group is to buy the freehold reversion of its retail warehouse at 11 Hove, East Sussex, from Surelodge Investments for £1.65 million.

● **LAPORE INDUSTRIES:** The company has acquired Aquatek Marine of Weymouth, Berkshire, a supplier of equipment, accessories and chemicals for swimming pools and spas and Spafco Ltd, a manufacturer and distributor of acrylic spas and fibre glass swimming pool equipment. The price for the two will be £2 million and there will be an additional performance-related consideration in 1987, which will not exceed £1 million.

● **READ PUBLISHING HOLDINGS:** For the half-year to Sept 29, with figures in millions of pounds, turnover was 208.5 (265.5), while the pretax profit was 17.3 (18.6). Earnings per share were 8.4p (8p). The company is a subsidiary of Reed International.

● **AVANA GROUP:** For the half-year to Sept 28, with figures in £000, turnover was 97,110 (91,466), while the pretax profit was 8,270 (7,709). Earnings per share were 15.43p (13.3p). An interim dividend of 5.45p is being paid on April 7.

● **AUTHORITY INVESTMENTS:** For the year to April 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 2,512 (4,259), while the pretax loss was 2,601 (423 profit). Loss per share were 53p (earnings, 8.32). No dividend is being paid (same).

● **BUSINESS MORTGAGES TRUST:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, operating income was 7,877 (5,687), while the pretax profit was 1,143 (818). Earnings per share were 3.06p (3.63p). An interim dividend of 1.75p (as far as it can be paid).

● **NEW CAVENTISH ESTATES:** For the year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 360 (732), while the pretax profit was 169 (169). Earnings per share were 2.59p (1.43p). A final dividend of 1.2p (1.2p) is being paid, making a total of 1.2p (1.2p).

● **BLACKWOOD HODGE (CANADA):** The company, which is 74 per cent owned by Blackwood Hodge, reports pretax profits up from Can \$1.05 million to Can \$2.16 million (£1.1 million) for the first nine months of 1985. Turnover rose from Can \$74.28 million to Can \$83.34 million.

● **PHILIPS LAMPS:** The company has filed a registration statement in the US for a public offering of 8.75 million common shares. After the offering, Philips will have about 224 million common shares outstanding. Philips will use the proceeds for general corporate purposes.

Required
COCOA BROKER
(Beans/Products)
Apply in Confidence:
Dunlop Bros.
ELKAL TRADING LTD.
International House
1 St Katherine's Way,
London E1 5UN

ADVERTISING
Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/4%
Adam & Company	11 1/4%
BCCI	11 1/4%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	11 1/4%
Continental Trust	11 1/4%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/4%
Nat Westminster	11 1/4%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/4%
TSB	11 1/4%
Citibank NA	11 1/4%

† Mortgage Base Rate

COMMODITIES REVIEW

How LME took tin crisis beyond point of no return

The die is cast. Tin trading will resume on Monday. The International Tin Council is expected to continue its ponderous deliberations, and chaos seems inevitable.

It is a sorry mess, and nobody can claim much credit for trying to clear it up.

Indeed, so badly has the situation deteriorated that some fear things could get worse. Talk of an impending disaster is already out of date. The disaster has happened. It matters little what the London Metal Exchange proposes tomorrow as a way of reopening the tin market. The damage has been done.

The International Tin Agreement as an effective price regulator is dead, and the blow to the LME, as constituted, has been or should be mortal.

Apportioning blame is now pointless. The ITC and the banks believe that the LME has made a serious mistake by deciding unilaterally when and how to resume tin trading.

Since the ITC is an international bureaucracy composed of members with conflicting interests, its decision-making is unlikely to be hastened by the LME action.

If it is correct that the weight of opinion in the ITC still favours an orderly winding down of the buffer stock and its £800 million of commitments, by acting without agreement on how the winding down is to be done, the LME risks sacrificing the only rational way out.

The banks are annoyed because they fear for the value of their collateral in the buffer stock. But they also think that the LME should have given the ITC more time to respond to the banks' proposals for an orderly resumption of trading.

As the group at the end of the debt chain, the banks have an interest in the welfare of both

the ITC and the LME, whereas it cannot honestly be said that either of the last two feel excessively sentimental towards each other.

So far, however, there is no sign of the machinery necessary to establish proper tripartite discussions among the banks, the LME and the ITC. If the authorities have failed, this is the most obvious area.

The Government and the Bank of England might not be able to resolve the crisis—much as they would love to do so—but they could provide their good offices for such discussions. Either they have not, or the offer has been declined.

In any event, the LME might well have decided on the same course. There has been a strong faction favouring a quick resumption of trading from the beginning.

Not everyone is long to the market, and some brokers and their clients undoubtedly stand to gain from lower tin prices. The financial pressures on the LME, moreover, are intense, and the LME authorities have become almost obsessed with the danger of losing not just tin—which at a pinch is dispensable—but copper and other more lucrative contracts.

Public appeals to the Prime Minister certainly heightened the drama, but they may not have aided reason.

There is an argument for the LME reconsidering swallowing its pride and waiting until the outcome of the ITC discussions is known.

A positive approach to the banks from the LME along those lines might still elicit the essential support which stretched brokers need. But the LME has little time for the ITC after the failure of last week's council meeting.

When the full dismal history of the crisis is written, that

meeting may be seen as the turning point. The meeting was called by the British, who miscalculated badly the chances of a positive result.

On the assumption that the LME will proceed as promised, what will happen? In the short term there will be price chaos. Devices to break the fall may slow the descent; they may even prevent the price from temporarily crashing out of sight. But they will not stop the fall completely.

Sufficient parents of brokers have now declared their willingness to stand by their subsidiaries for us to be reasonably confident that the number of immediate casualties will be small.

But it is impossible to predict the longer-term consequences. The utter absorption of the LME with tin may too easily damage the other contracts. Traders around the world will be understandably cautious about using the exchange.

The LME's gamble is that opening will damage the market less than staying closed. It is not quite a counsel of despair, but it is certainly not the "soft landing" for which everyone hoped.

It is the kind of disorder the ITC and the banks hate. Calculating members' obligations and winding down the buffer stock would be difficult enough in a normal market. To attempt it without sensible pricing, perhaps in a wildly fluctuating market, could be impossible.

The banks similarly will have no reliable way of valuing their collateral. The temptation for the ITC to unload its 63,000 tonnes and the banks to call in their loans may be greater than either can resist. And that would pile catastrophe on disaster.

Michael Prest

Buy-out proposed at English Estates

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

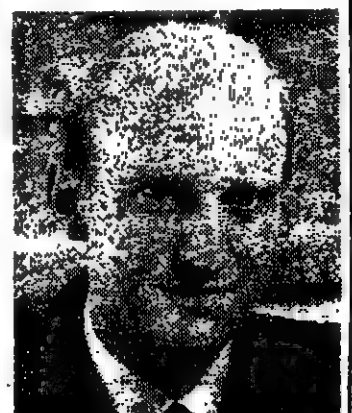
English Estates, the Government's advance factories building arm based at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, will attempt to find ways out of its funding crisis at a meeting next Monday with Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. One option will be a management buy-out.

The buy-out, with anticipated City backing, would take English Estates out of the increasing constraints of public sector funding. The agency is already faced with a £20 million drop in funding this year, with the prospect of about the same shortfall over the next three years; even though targeted total expenditure is likely to be trimmed.

The idea is that if Mr Brittan agreed to the buy-out plan, English Estates would continue to carry out government work on advance factories and other units such as office accommodation work for the Development Commission in rural areas for which it receives funding of around £15 million a year. There is no cutback in prospect on this work.

The buy-out plan will be put to Mr Brittan by Mr Christopher Wates, chairman of English Estates, who is also chief executive of Wates the builders, and Mr Tony Pender, chief executive at English Estates.

A buy-out would produce a substantial capital amount for the Government. English Estates' property portfolio runs to some 24 million square feet in



Christopher Wates: bid to end funding crisis

5,000 separate units around the country, mainly in assisted areas.

Problems first arose for English Estates towards the end of last year when its projected spending was cut. It had been working on expenditure for this year of £42 million with another £10 million to be met separately for development of the 300-acre Chatham dockyard site. Then it was told that total spending, including that at Chatham, would have to come down to £32 million.

Mr Pender said: "The indications are that we are going to get about £25 million in each of the next three financial years, including Chatham spending, when we would need about £45 million."

The agency has already brought in a moratorium on new development.

Exporters cool on barter idea

By Cliff Feltham

Exporters have given a cool reception to a Department of Trade and Industry offer to help them win orders by organizing barter deals.

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, was keen to give backing to a semi-government body which would help make it easier for companies to share in the fast growing business of countertrade.

But a department official has admitted: "The idea has fallen by the wayside. We had very little response from industry. They seem to think they are getting enough assistance already from consultancies specializing in countertrade deals."

The Government has always had misgivings about countertrade, preferring conventional transactions, but it has noted the growth of swap arrangements.

It is aware, too, that countries such as the United States and Canada and European nations such as Holland, Sweden, France and West Germany are providing various forms of official backing and guidance.

A specialist at one foreign bank in London expressed surprise that the department had dropped its initiative.

He said: "However the Government hasn't taken a particularly positive attitude so far. We would certainly like to see more action from them—the French and United States authorities are very active in setting up barter deals particularly for military hardware."

TENDER FORM

The application form will open at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 14 November, 1985 and will close later the same day. This form should be lodged with National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD by not later than such time.

Kingdom of Sweden

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £100,000,000 LOAN STOCK 2014

Payable as follows: On application: £30 per cent. of the nominal amount.
On or before 30 April, 1988: the balance of the Allotment Price.

To Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited on behalf of the Kingdom of Sweden:

In accordance with the terms of the Prospectus dated 12 November, 1985, I/we apply as below. I/we undertake to accept the amount of Stock applied for or any less amount that may be allotted in respect of this application and to pay for the same in conformity with the terms of the said Prospectus.

Nominal amount of the Stock applied for	Amount enclosed at £30 per cent. of the nominal amount applied for	TENDER PRICE*		Box A*
		£	p	
£	£			

*The price tendered per £100 nominal amount of Stock must be an integral multiple of 1/2p unless application is at the Minimum Tender Price to be determined on 13 November, 1985 in which case applicants should tick Box A.

Applications which are not at or above the Minimum Tender Price will not be considered for acceptance.

Note: (i) Applications at different prices must be made on separate Tender Forms and a separate return must accompany each Tender Form.

(ii) Applications must be for a minimum of £100 nominal amount of Stock and thereafter for the following multiples of Stock:

Amount of Stock applied for	Multiple	Amount of Stock applied for	Multiple
£100 — £2,000	£100	£20,000 — £100,000	£10,000
£2,000 — £10,000	£500	£100,000 or greater	£20,000

I/we enclose a cheque drawn on a branch in the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands of a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing House or which has arranged for its cheques to be cleared through the facilities provided for the members of those Clearing Houses made payable to "National Westminster Bank PLC" and crossed "Sweden Loan" representing payment at the rate of £30 per cent. for the above mentioned nominal amount of Stock. I/we agree, as a collateral contract and in consideration of the Kingdom not allowing any Stock other than in accordance with the said Prospectus, that this application shall be irrevocable. I/we agree that completion and delivery of this Tender Form accompanied by my/our cheque constitutes an offer by me/us for the same will be honoured on first presentation. I/we hereby undertake to pay the balance payable by the due date will tender the amount previously paid liable to forfeiture and the allotment liable to cancellation. I/we acknowledge that any allotment tender to be sent to me/us and I/we appropriate the reimbursement for any application monies receivable to me/us is liable to be held pending clearance of all charges.

I/we hereby request that any Stock allotted to me/us:

(Delete box B or C as appropriate)

Box B
Be evidenced by an allotment letter addressed to me/us and be sent by post at my/our risk at the first address shown below.

Box C (For persons with a Euro-clear account only)
Be evidenced by a global allotment letter addressed to Euro-clear and that our participation therein in a minimum amount of £10,000 nominal and integral multiples thereof be credited to our existing securities account at:

EURO-CLEAR A/C No. _____

Date: _____ November, 1985

(1) Usual Signature

MR/MRS. _____ FORENAMES IN FULL _____ SURNAME _____

THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
1	CH Ind	100	95	11	100	95
2	Colson Gp	100	95	12	100	95
3	Bard (Wm)	100	95	13	100	95
4	Black Arrow	100	95	14	100	95
5	Bundell-Perm	100	95	15	100	95
6	Clarke (Clement)	100	95	16	100	95
7	BBA	100	95	17	100	95
8	Alexandra Wear	100	95	18	100	95
9	Bromsgrove Inds	100	95	19	100	95
10	Black (Rex)	100	95	20	100	95
11	PROPERTY	100	95	21	100	95
12	Land Securities	100	95	22	100	95
13	Frogmore	100	95	23	100	95
14	Lynton	100	95	24	100	95
15	Cap & Counties	100	95	25	100	95
16	Marlborough	100	95	26	100	95
17	Cardiff Prop	100	95	27	100	95
18	Samuel	100	95	28	100	95
19	Leas Investments	100	95	29	100	95
20	DRAPERY AND STORES	100	95	30	100	95
21	Vantona Wylls	100	95	31	100	95
22	Lee Cooper	100	95	32	100	95
23	St. House Street	100	95	33	100	95
24	Grattan	100	95	34	100	95
25	Menzies (John)	100	95	35	100	95
26	Combined English	100	95	36	100	95
27	Harris Queensway	100	95	37	100	95
28	Great SR	100	95	38	100	95
29	House of Love	100	95	39	100	95
30	Woolley Henry	100	95	40	100	95
31	BUILDING AND ROADS	100	95			
32	Hetical Ltd	100	95			
33	Lovell (TV)	100	95			
34	Aberdeen Const	100	95			
35	Crouch (Derek)	100	95			
36	Bellway	100	95			
37	Higgs & Hill	100	95			
38	Lamp Ltd	100	95			
39	Douglas (RM)	100	95			
40	IFM Insurance	100	95			

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

UNDATED

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

INDEX-TRACKED

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

BREWERIES

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

ELECTRICALS

1985 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Weak start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 11. Dealings End, Nov 22. Contango Day, Nov 25. Settlement Day, Dec 2.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	95	CH Ind	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Colson Gp	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Bard (Wm)	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Black Arrow	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Bundell-Perm	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Clarke (Clement)	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	BBA	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Alexandra Wear	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Bromsgrove Inds	100	5	5.26	10.0
100	95	Black (Rex)	100	5	5.26	10.0

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

FOODS

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

S-Z

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

E-K

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

L-R

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

M-T

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

N-U

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

V-W

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

X-Y

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

Z

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

A-Z

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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100	95	Bundell-Perm	100	5	5.26	10.0
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BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

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S-Z

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

E-K

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

L-R

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

M-T

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

N-U

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

V-W

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

X-Y

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

Z

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

A-Z

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BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

FOODS

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E

The Act that's still open to questions

By Matthew May

Registration under the Data Protection Act got under way yesterday, amidst widespread concern that many companies and individuals are still unaware of both the need to register and how to go about it.

All existing computer users of personal information must now be registered by May 11 next year, though computers used only for personal, family or household affairs are considered exempt.

Filling out the registration forms themselves is a relatively straightforward task but what is causing confusion is the time-consuming task of deciding what information is relevant.

Some organisations are not clear exactly what data they do hold, especially where the keeping of computer records has been sub-contracted to an outside agency.

Mr Eric Howe, data protection registrar, believes that many businesses will have to carry out an internal survey before they can complete the

application forms and over the past few months the data registration centre has been dealing with more than a thousand inquiries per week.

How successful the Act will be, when registrations are completed, in ensuring that computer records are correct and stored only generally accepted relevant information is a matter of argument.

In two years time the proponents argue, individuals will be able to inspect personal information held on them, get it corrected if it is wrong and perhaps seek compensation.

Companies that fail to register could face fines.

But critics claim the Act is not wide enough - many government and police records are exempt, for example - and, they say, it fulfills only the minimum required by EEC regulations.

On the purely practical side, those organisations which find they have only a few "suspect" records will be quite entitled to place them back in cardboard folders - for which no equivalent legislation exists.

The data protection registrar has a telephone enquiry service on Wilmslow (0625) 535777.

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Skilled jobs at a premium

THE WEEK

By Pearce Wright

Computer Weekly/National Computing Centre
1985 Salary Survey

Job title	1985 average (£)	1984 average (£)	% change
Head of management services	20,679	19,875	4.0
Data processing manager	16,594	15,775	5.2
Chief systems analyst	19,880	18,975	4.8
Senior systems analyst/project leader	10,998	10,493	4.8
Systems analyst	11,802	11,297	4.4
Chief analyst	15,493	14,988	3.4
Programmer	12,429	11,924	4.2
Analyst programmer	9,510	9,005	5.6
Operations manager	12,360	11,855	4.3
Chief programmer	13,653	13,148	3.8
Senior programmer	10,424	9,919	5.1
Programmer	8,004	7,499	6.7
Computer operator	7,213	6,708	7.5
Data preparation staff	5,019	4,514	11.2

anecdote. Where you see a conspiratorial-looking group of three programmers in the corner of the canteen or after work in the local pub, you are witnessing the birth of a new software house.

There is certainly no slackening of entrepreneurial activity in the industry. Less surprisingly given the state of competition for labour, salaries in the computer industry are higher than predicted 12 months ago. Average increases are 7.5 to 8 per cent.

As the accompanying table compiled by a Computer Weekly and National Computing Centre salary survey shows,

those in the middle income range fared best. Increases for data preparation staff were again below the average and so were the payments for top jobs, although that does not allow for the value of additions to the pay package that might be available to executives.

Providing yet another confirmation of the economic line that is said to divide the workforce between those who live south and north of Watford, there is a widening gap between the salaries of those in the south of England and London and the rest of the country.

People working on communications and networking projects have become high on the list of demands judging by the salary survey. Their pay is showing the most rapid increase. On average they were over £1,000 better off.

But forecasts over the next year are highly disturbing. The manpower issue is scarcely a new one. The dilemma was highlighted in the Information Technology report, *Crisis Facing UK Information Technology*, from the Economic Development Committee and in the three reports of the Information Technology Skills Shortage Committee, perhaps better known as the Butcher Committee.

They recognise that the high turnover of up to 25 per cent a year militates against training by users. Employers have to go for experienced people who can quickly become productive.

The forum suggest in a statement issued this week that the formal education and training system is inadequate. Many degree courses concentrate on the technology of computing yet even these do not satisfy the demand from employers who need technically skilled people.

The shortfall is even more severe in vocational training, which accounts for 80 per cent of employees, mainly analysts and programmers working on commercial data processing systems.

New telephones are the stars at Olympia

By Geoff Wheelwright

The biggest stars of a business computer exhibition, Compec, which begins today at Olympia could well be machines that rely on a technology that is more than 30 years old: the telephone.

A new generation of computer-phones or "integrated voice data terminals" (IVDTs) look set to capture the public's attention. Not only will British Telecom be exhibiting the latest add-ons and developments for its Tonto computer-phone, but Acorn Computers is expected to unveil its long-awaited Communicator machine.

It is not yet clear how big the market for such a machine will be. Although ICL - which makes the Tonto for British Telecom and sells its own "One Per Desk" version - has gained big orders for the One Per Desk, most are through large national telephone companies.

Acorn's offering comes on the heels of a very bad financial year for the company, which saw European corporate giant Olivetti take a major stake and Acorn's share of the home and small business computer market dwindle.

There is also expected to be American competition to the home-grown offerings. Compaq Computer recently established a subsidiary company in the US to market and develop a "computer-phone" called the "TeleCompaq" - which not only provides for full telephone and computer data transmission



Computer-phones capture the public's attention

functions, but will run most computer software written for the IBM PC.

But if telephone-based computers are to be the most eye-catching machines at the Compec show, the biggest attraction may well be a computer which will not officially be on display. Commodore will be showing its much-praised Amiga computer in a hotel room near Olympia.

And if the computer industry's response to the machine at September's Personal Computer World show "sneak preview" is anything to go by, it may well end up more crowded than some parts of the exhibition floor.

Commodore last week leaked a few details of its marketing plans for the Amiga in the UK - although it would not yet be

held to a firm launch date or a firm UK price. The Amiga - with its fast computer processor, high-definition pictures, synthesizer-quality music generation ability and ability (with an additional disc drive add-on and software) to run most software written for the IBM PC - has made it a big hit among reviewers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Despite its popularity among the industry critics, it is the business computer dealer community that Commodore have to convince if the Amiga is to be successful. And Commodore is hoping to woo the dealers away from the business machines on show at Compec in the hope that it may win orders for the first-quarter 1986 shipments of the Amiga.

No extra money for Eureka

British companies hoping for government funding for schemes involved with an Eureka project will have to rely on existing sources of finance.

Eureka is a European effort to get companies and research institutes to co-operate on high technology in an attempt to improve the competitiveness of European industries in the field.

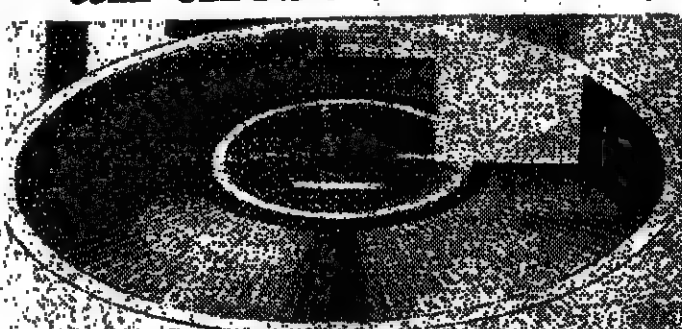
Planning of the programme has been delayed after disputes over the funding and organisation of Eureka.

Last week, foreign and research ministers from 18 countries met in Hannover to discuss potential projects and managed to work out elaborate, although temporary, compromises.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, made it clear that there would be no new money forthcoming from the Government for Eureka, though British companies participating in Eureka could apply for grants under existing research programmes.

Projects that got the go-ahead all involve French companies and include the production of a new computer chip made of amorphous, or uncrystallised, silicon. It is expected to cost £27 million.

Magic disc banishes all those old files



By Frank Brown

The boring job of filing paperwork in cabinets could become a thing of the past. So could the practice of accumulating masses of old paperwork and documentation for reference in dust-laden archives.

Both are likely to be replaced by computerized systems which record images of documents digitally on ten-inch diameter optical discs each capable of storing 30,000 pictorial pages or up to half a million typed pages per disc, and which can retrieve and display any one page in less than a sixth of a second.

The technique, called Digital Optical Recording (DOR), was developed in Holland. Scientists in the research laboratories of the Dutch electronics firm Philips discovered some years ago that a tiny semiconductor laser could be used to "burn" microscopic craters or pits in an ultra-thin layer of Tellurium alloy, and to detect the presence or absence of pits (i.e. the 1's and 0's of computer data) by measuring the light reflected from the layer's surface.

The layer is sandwiched between protective glass substrates and has a spiral groove, which effectively provides ten times the storage capacity possible with computer disks and tapes. It also has the advantage of being able to store document images as well as computer/word processor data.

The disc is claimed to store images more efficiently and more cost effectively than microfilm or microfiche.

Philips have developed the DOR technique into a modular digital storage and retrieval system called Megadoc which it has just started to market in this country.

Megadoc systems can comprise single DOR units each accommodating a single manually interchangeable disc, or centred around "punchboxes" each containing up to 64 discs, and thereby offering online access to 3.8 million pictorial pages, or 64 million typed pages, or an equally staggering combination of the two.

Configurations vary according to the application, but basically includes a file-serving computer with its magnetic disk storage, buffering, and a number of video workstations.

Systems can be linked together to form vast libraries of reference information accessible to vast numbers of people. Sensitive information can of course be categorized so that it can only be accessed by authorized people.

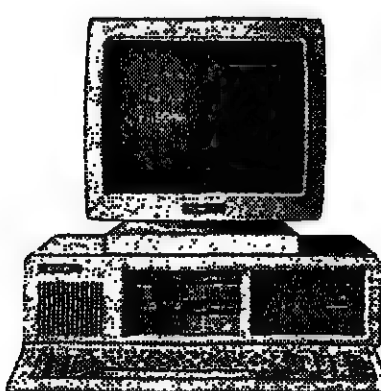
Megadoc systems are already in use in Europe. Users include the publishers of *Stern* magazine, who have two systems: one for storing historical files, and the other for information retrieval by journalists.

Systems like Megadoc could revolutionize the handling of incoming mail. Letters could be digitised as soon as they are opened and stored in a computer system which would relay them to the electronic mailboxes of the various recipients.

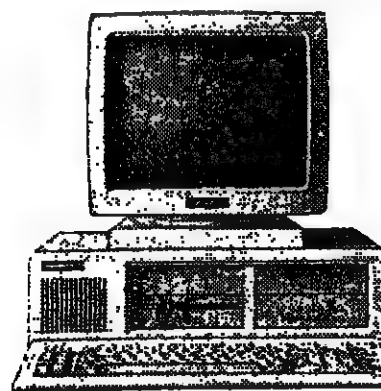
The recipients would read each item on their respective video screens, and decide which to keep. For each one they decide to retain, they enter an appropriate reference, but a confirmation key, and the document concerned is instantly recorded on disc.

Unfortunately, however, such recorded images are not yet acceptable as evidence in a court of law. Thus, until they are, users will have to continue retaining important documents in dust-gathering files.

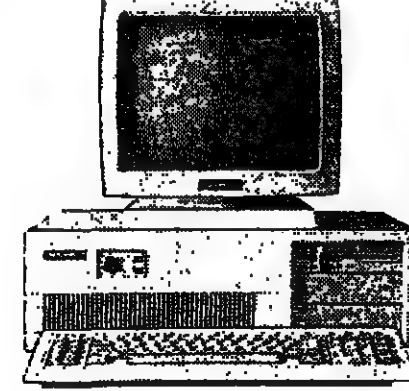
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COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

Hard going in the US industry forecast for '86

By Kevan Pearson

The high technology recession that has produced losses, job cuts and factory closures in the US computer industry is showing little sign of ending.

Almost all the major players in the industry have reported third-quarter figures and the results are not encouraging. Small sales growth coupled with reduced profits were the order of the day. On average, the industry's net profits are down by nearly 40 per cent compared with 1984.

And the outlook for growth is "modest" according to IBM's chief executive John Akers, speaking in Scotland last week.

But 1985 isn't over yet. And despite statements made earlier in the year, there is even doubt among IBM's top decision makers as to whether the giant will show any net profit gain for the year.

According to Alan Krowe, IBM's senior vice-president in charge of planning, whether there is any profit growth this year will depend on the company's cost-cutting measures and its fourth quarter sales drive. The economy drive has already wiped 15 per cent off corporate expenses in the third quarter, compared with a year ago.

"But the company would have to show a 25 per cent increase in net profit over 1984's record fourth quarter to show any increase. So far this year profit has fallen by more than 12 per cent compared with 1984."

The company is counting on further cost cuts and shipments of its new generation of mainframes to provide a "strong fourth quarter."

Sales growth comes from Europe

Not all US computer companies are suffering from the slow down. Specialist suppliers, such as those who provide specialist scientific machines, appear to have fared better than the general suppliers.

And outside the US things are not so bad. Most of the sales growth IBM has shown this year comes from its European operation. And some European-based companies, such as the Italian Olivetti and Siemens from West Germany, look like having a good year. In the UK ICL reports strong orders despite the problems of its parent, STC.

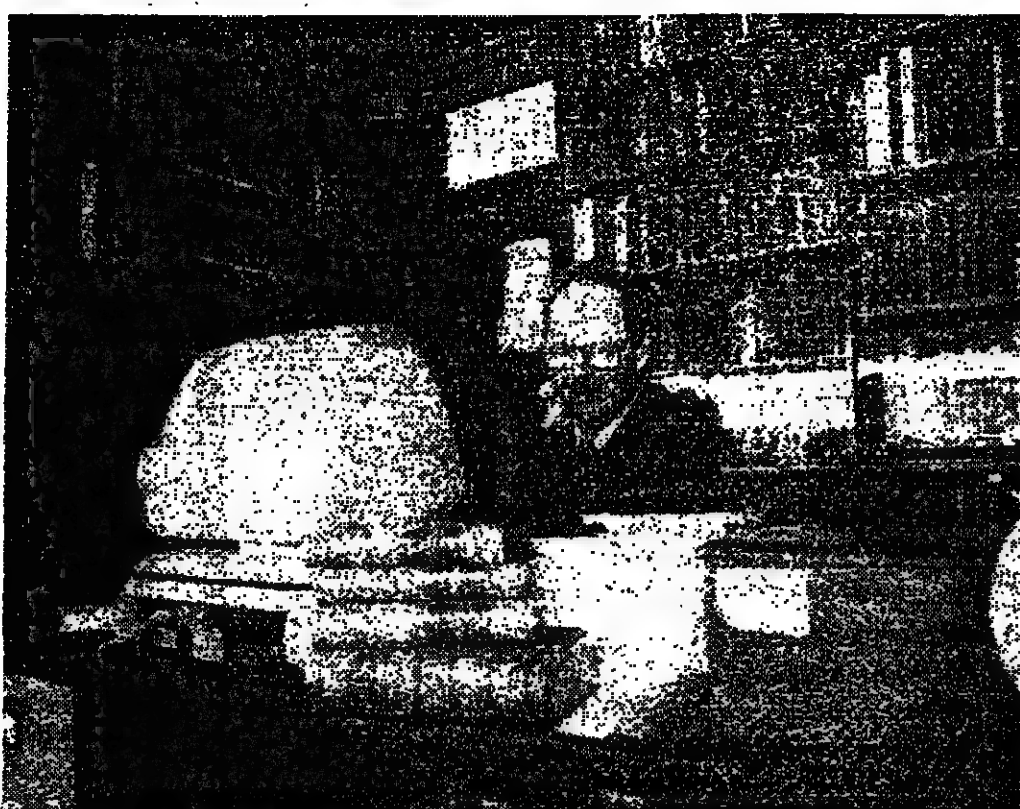
But with the US economy showing every sign of low growth in 1986 that could make the US multinational even more keen to get their hands on the European market. IBM has already targeted Europe as a major source of growth, along with South-East Asia. The other US suppliers could end up looking the same way.

John Akers: Low-growth problem

And his views are echoed by other senior computer industry figures such as Charles Exley, chairman of NCR.

The basic problem in 1985, according to Mr Akers, is low growth in the US economy and high imports due to the strong dollar. Add for 1986 "we do not at this point see much in the way of improvement," he said.

Another indicator is the current sales of the semi-conductor manufacturers. They are having an even worse time than the computer-makers with almost all of the major chip producers showing heavy losses for the current quarter. Although the chip-makers now say the worst is behind them, they are not looking for a major improvement in financial results for about a year.



Colin Page: bookseller with a system to boost the profits

Epson now ready to take on the PC

By Geoff Wheelwright

Japanese manufacturer Epson is to the computer-printer market what IBM is to the business computer market. The company claims it has up to 40 per cent of the market for dot-matrix printers, the type most often used for printing draft letters, accounts and general purpose information. Almost every software firm that produces computer programs which require the use of a printer make sure that they will work first with an Epson model.

Despite its success in the printer division, Epson has long been ambitious to gain other footholds in the computer market.

Its attempts to break into the desktop computer area have been frustrated because its machines could not call on the huge base of business software written for IBM's PC. But that has not stopped the company from making some inroads into the portable computer business.

Although Epson's portable PX-8 is not as powerful as a desktop machine, it has proved popular enough to claim a 30 per cent share of the "laptop" portable computer market. None, however, (including Epson) has released figures to show exactly how big that

market is - and there are almost as many companies flooding into it now as there were into the IBM PC-type market eighteen months ago.

Epson has now decided to join the highly-competitive market of producing an IBM compatible personal computer. Ironically it will go on sale in January, a time when it is rumoured IBM will drop its basic personal computer to concentrate on more powerful successors. Epson prices for its new range will start at a cheap £777, while a version with a hard-disc storage system of 20 megabytes will cost £1,666, making it one of the cheapest systems of its type. Epson only released its last personal computer, the semi-IBM compatible QX16, about six months ago.

The question for Epson now is whether it can hang on to the lead it has gained in the portable computer and printer markets, while finally making a big-time success of its desktop computer efforts. Certainly the prices for the new Epson Taxi system are impressive, but it will have to sell that system against literally hundreds of other similar systems - many of which will have to move off the shelves of computer dealerships if room is to be made for Epson's offering.

UK Computer Press Awards

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More than 220 entries were received for the UK Computer Press Awards, sponsored by The Times and Hewlett-Packard, and are 30 per cent up on last year.

Two new categories of award were added this year, Computer Columnist of the Year, which attracted 19 entries, and Computer Programme of the Year - Radio and TV, which attracted seven entries.

The judging has now been completed and the winners will be announced at a dinner at Claridges on November 27, hosted by Selina Scott. Judges included Dr Doug Eyelous, the director-general of the Computing Services Association, John Ockenden, president of the association, and Derek Harding, Secretary-General of the British Computer Society.

Booked - thanks to Mr Page's system

By Geoffrey Ellis

Shoplifters should beware when considering operations in the shop of a South-coast bookseller, who has already brought one book thief to justice by adopting a computerised stock system.

Colin Page, who has been selling antiquarian books in Brighton for ten years, and confesses to the world's worst memory, found that as stock grew and requirements of specialised customers widened, he could not keep pace with the increasing demands on his time.

This is the classic scenario painted by eager computer salesmen to gullible customers, often with unhappy results. In his case with the assistance of a helpful friend, he invested in a Commodore Pet and in 1981 became the first antiquarian dealer to install a successful system.

Much of the programming he learnt himself, writing basic routines for listing his stock of ten thousand books, but buying off-the-peg commercial search and sort routines written in machine code. These form one of the most important aspects of his business, giving him the ability to search for books by title, author, subject, and in the case of geographical titles, county or town.

As the cataloguing lists the books description, price and position on the shelf, it has enabled him to check any unexplained gaps in his stock, and immediately find details of the missing book. The last time he discovered a space that was not the result of a sale, he telephoned fellow booksellers in the town to alert them of the theft. When the thief subsequently walked in to sell the stolen book, he was arrested.

Mr Page upgraded to a newer system, a Pet-compatible Commodore 8096 and is now firmly convinced that his business is more profitable as a result, giving as an example the ability to pick up sales that would otherwise be lost. Customers, he says, often miss books on the shelves, but will buy when offered a printed listing of their interests.

Mr Page has had inquiries from other people in the trade who are interested in installing similar systems. It illustrates, he says, how a small traditional business such as bookselling, can come to terms with a computer.

ICL takes a slice of Telecom order

COMPUTER BRIEFING

ICL is to provide British Telecom with seven new mainframe computers and 5,000 terminals as part of BT's service operations. Although the value of this order is more than £50 million, British Telecom has made it clear that the other 23 mainframes needed for its computerisation programme will be from IBM or companies supplying IBM-compatible equipment.

Up till now British Telecom has mainly used ICL equipment and only recently installed nine IBM computers as the first phase of the project. The mainframe order is for ICL's Series 39, a range launched earlier this year and developed in association with Fujitsu.

ICL's UK managing director Alan Rousell says that "mainframe orders are 20 per cent higher this year" though the continuing expansion in sales of such machines means that ICL is still likely to lose some of its share of the market.

The Manpower Services Commission is to spend £7 million on a new communications network that will link its seven regional computer centres to area offices and Job Centres around the UK. Eventually over 950 sites will be connected with 2,500 terminals and 1,000 printers linked in. It is expected to be completed by July, 1986.

An ex-journalist without a formal training in computers has developed a program that cuts out much of the accidental and fraudulent use of credit cards. The system is aimed at coping with phone credit card purchases.

John Thompson, 31, government information officer, faced with thousands of orders for tickets for the 1986 World Exposition in Vancouver, Canada, has provided an instant printout of telephone orders. Overnight the Expo computer checks with the credit card company to make sure the card is not stolen or that there is sufficient credit. Once confirmed, the tickets are dispatched. If there are problems, the customer receives a polite letter asking for a check with the credit card company.

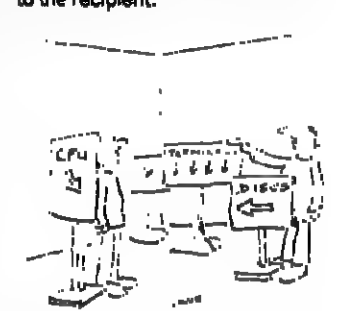
A computerised system which can translate into Braille has been developed in Japan. The system, which transliterates kana - Japanese phonetic script - is the result of work done by Professor Setsuo Kikuchi and his electrical engineering students at Oita National Technical College in Kyushu.

At present, Braille transliterators relies on the use of a stylus or Braille typewriters, and requires long training to become proficient. With the new system, it is claimed, even someone who knows no Braille can transliterates. The system costs about £1,725 but Professor Kikuchi's team are now looking for ways of producing the machines more cheaply.

Subscribers to British Telecom's Prestel system can now send and receive messages over the international telex system using their electronic mailboxes. For the past year Prestel users have been able to send telexes, but only to addresses in the UK.

One of the major problems with electronic mail systems is that relatively few people have access to them. Prestel currently has 60,000 customers and the ability to connect telex with electronic mail is seen as an important halfway house until such systems become widespread.

The new service, Telex Link, will convert pages of Prestel text which typically contain about 100 words and send them as a telex at a cost of £1 per page for Europe and £2 per page for the USA. Incoming telexes directed to Prestel mailboxes are received free of charge to the recipient.



"Of course you can't see anything. It's the ultimate virtual machine."

The development of an information technology industry in Norway can give 67,000 new jobs before the year 2000 but failing this could risk having to use its oil revenues on the import of data and electronics, says Ralph Holbakk, director of Tandberg Data.

He has sent a report to the Norwegian government which says that lack of experts is the main obstacle to creating growth. More than half of the new IT jobs must be filled by people with special technological training or international marketing expertise. Holbakk pointed out: "Both the Swedish and Danish electronics industries are far more export-orientated than the Norwegian."

Mercury Communications has ordered a £500,000 optical transmission system to link London, Bristol and Birmingham. The system will be able to carry up to 7,680 simultaneous telephone conversations, television pictures and other data traffic.

Stemming the flood of paper

By Russell Jones

Despite the computer age a flood of paper still flows between buyer and seller. In America buyers issue 15 million purchase orders each year which trigger 15 million delivery notes and another 15 million invoices with the result that 100 million paper messages criss-cross various manufacturers and retailers.

The same problem exists in the UK. Tesco, for example, deals with 1,000 different manufacturers. Fine Fare estimates that it processes 40,000 invoices every week.

So the potential savings in time and money from electronic systems that link suppliers with retailers are potentially huge.

In the UK the market for such systems, known as electronic data interchange (EDI), has received a boost with the recent announcement by British



Telecom and US computer company McDonnell Douglas of a joint value added network Edinet. It will compete with ICL's offering in this area, Tradanet.

Companies such as Tesco already have their own computer systems. Getting these computers to talk to one another requires a set of accepted standards.

EDI should make it feasible for inter-company documentation to be exchanged electronically. A retailer needing to order from a wholesaler can send an order in a standard format direct to the wholesaler's computer. The reverse invoicing can be carried out in a similar fashion.

Both Edinet and Tradanet provide standard software to translate information from one company's format to a standard EDI format and back again. Both also supply a generalised network.

Individual companies plug into the network and can then exchange business documents electronically with any other company subscribing to that network.

The potential for EDI is huge. By 1986, ICL expects that 65 large retailers and suppliers, representing several thousand shops and depots, will be using the Tradanet service. It will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, handling up to 1.3 billion characters a day.

In America, McDonnell Douglas already has 200 major customers. EDI is particularly attractive to companies in the retail and distribution industries, where, typically, large numbers of orders need to flow between companies on a regular basis. It is no coincidence that many of McDonnell Douglas's customers for the service, such as Heinz and Kellogg, are in the retail business.

And it is not simply for large companies. McDonnell Douglas markets a software package called EDI Translator which runs on the IBM PC/XT - just the sort of machine likely to appeal to small businesses.

Using this package, users need not change from their traditional document formats. They can set up screens which correspond to existing formats. The PC then translates each document into a common format for transmission to the Edinet network. The receiving PC takes the data in the form of a predefined file which can be mapped into the receiver's own files and so adapted to the document standard of the receiver.

In America large supermarket chains already order electronically from large suppliers. Invoices are returned in the same way, with the whole process simplifying stock management. Often this leads to a reduction in stock levels. Some companies have even carried this one stage further.

This is when point of sale equipment is used to produce stock reports that automatically generate purchase orders for replacement stock.

The UK market - expected to be worth £200 million by 1990 - is thought to be two to three years behind America in the acceptance of EDI.

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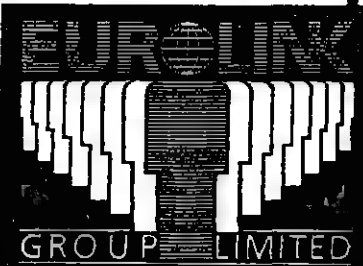
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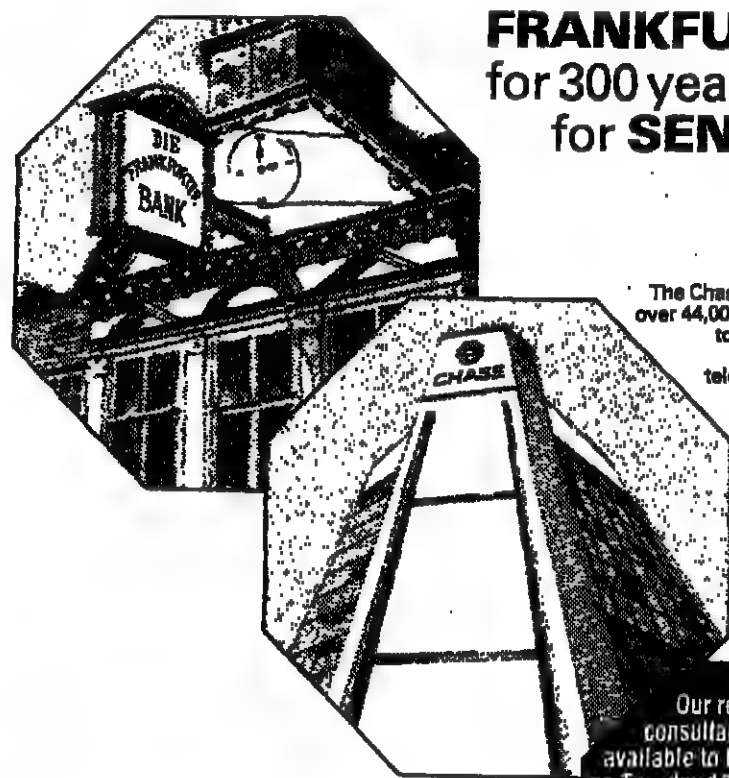
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TENNIS

TUGOLAN: Velez Montar 0, Red Star 2; Veljez Niksic 1, Partizan 2; Veljez 4, Leading standings: 1, Partizan; 2, Red Star; 3, Velez. 17.

[illegible]

RACING: BUMPER RACE FORM SUGGESTS WINTER'S NOVICE IS WORTH SUPPORT

Hasty Gamble to make good impression on hurdling debut

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Whatever else happens this jumping season, Fred Winter deserves a medal for the way he trained Mackintosh to win the Mackintosh Gold Cup at Cheltenham last Saturday. Producing a horse to win first time out in difficult circumstances is an achievement anywhere, to do it at that level was the work of a magician.

Now I am hoping that some of that magic will have rubbed off on Hasty Gamble, his runner at Hereford today in the Maiden Timber (EBF) Novices' Hurdle (qualifier), who is my new favourite. Hasty Gamble has not even jumped a hurdle or a fence in public, but my information is that he is older brother, Hasty Storm, he is quite adept.

The form figures that you will notice before his name in the programme relate to his form for what the Irish refer to as bumper races or what we call in a more sedate manner National Hunt Flat races. Taking a long overdue leaf out of the Irish book, these were introduced here a few seasons ago to give the more immature types experience of racing among themselves before being asked to jump.

By winning three of his four last season at Towcester, Worcester and Hereford, Hasty Gamble showed that he was beginning to get the hang of things faster than most and now I take him to beat Golden Rapier, the easy winner of a similar race at Cheltenham.

After The Grey Gunner, Toby Balding's runner in the

Allenmore Novices' Chase had finished third at Wincanton in a similar race behind Arctic Stream Baiding said: "When he gets his act together he will be a racehorse one day, you mark my words."

Before the Wincanton race, The Grey Gunner's form figures read as follows: fell, fell, unplaced, fell, unplaced rider, unplaced. So that third place on the Somerset course was certainly an improvement and probably the indication of better things to come envisaged by his trainer.

Certainly, The Grey Gunner will not have to be out of the ordinary today to beat Arapahoe Prince, whose "victory" was a walkover at Ascot; Capt Flaty and Giffa Way, who have beaten five lengths in his last race at Carlisle.

With Kamir dropping by the wayside overnight, the Hereford Hurdle Summer Challenge Bowl ought to be at the mercy of Itself, whose stable companion Native Break is seeking his fourth victory on the course this season in the Opella Turf Chase. When seen last at Newbury only seven days ago, Native Break gave the unimpressive impression that he had gone off the boil because he finished last of three, beaten six lengths.

In the circumstances I am happy to go for Dava Fox instead today. At least my selection was beaten only six lengths at Wincanton recently when he finished fourth behind Cobley Express.

Instead of running Kamir at Hereford, the Herefordshire trainer, Alan Jarvis is launching an ambitious three-pronged

attack on Devon and Exeter, that assault comprises Kyston Lad (2.15), Hill Of Slane (3.15) and Baskerville (3.45).

As Kyston Lad will be meeting Tom's Little All, The Reject and Golden Friend, the three principal rivals in the Plymouth Gin Hurdle Gold Cup between 10 and 24th better terms than he would be in a handicap I believe that he can win.

His stable companion, Hill Of Slane can also cope with Eastern Carnival in the West of England Country Chase after a promising effort behind Henry Kissinger at Stratford (his conqueror was far from disgraced on Saturday's Mackintosh Gold Cup). However, Baskerville may well find Harbour Bridge too strong in the Devonish Brewery Handicap Hurdle. My selection shaped with a degree of promise in his first race of the season.

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World record \$7m paid for broodmare

Lexington, Kentucky (Associated Press) - A world record price of \$7m was paid for the four-year-old mare, Miss Oceana, who is in foal to Northern Dancer, at the Fasig-Tipton sale here. The purchaser was Fred Winter, who is currently being built by the American financier, Carl Lewis. The previous record for a broodmare was \$6m set at Fasig-Tipton last year for Princess Anne.

In a special sale for the complete dispersal of buildings of Newmarket Farm Trust, set up by Mr and Mrs Taylor Hardin, 42 mares and foals sold for nearly \$37.2m and 21 stallions were fetched more than \$9.5m.

Miss Oceana, by Alydar out of Kittiwake, was bred for \$950,000 by Allen Paulson, the owner of the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp winner, Camille. She is owned by the American financier, Carl Lewis. The previous record for a broodmare was \$6m set at Fasig-Tipton last year for Princess Anne.

A chestnut colt foal by Alydar out of Kittiwake was sold for \$1.5m by Allen Paulson, the owner of the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp winner, Camille. She is owned by the American financier, Carl Lewis. The previous record for a broodmare was \$6m set at Fasig-Tipton last year for Princess Anne.

Cap Di Monte, the English challenger, ridden by Angel Cordoba, stayed on well but could finish no closer than fifth behind Koroed in the \$200,000 Yellow Ribbon Stakes over 10 furlongs at Santa Anita on Sunday night.

Cap Di Monte, who started at a handicap of 6-1, will now be trained by Neil Drysdale in California and is likely to be retired to stand in the spring. So is the other British rider, Zafraan (Pete Eddery), a never-dancer eighth, who was sold for \$1.5m.

Extrapade, who was the 4-5 favourite, moved up on the final turn to lead at the entrance to the straight and ran on to hold the strong challenge of the ex-Irish Alydar's Best (Rafael Mesa) by threequarters of a length. Extrapade was a 4-5 favourite, moved up on the final turn to lead at the entrance to the straight and ran on to hold the strong challenge of the ex-Irish Alydar's Best (Rafael Mesa) by threequarters of a length.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Company Secretary

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West End

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IFC International Finance Corporation

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Radio 2

10.00 Jazz Today Charles Fox presents the Steve Franklin Group †

11.00 The Moyses Legacy: Moyses Trio play Telemann's Trio Sonata in E; Marcel Moyses is the flautist in Genet's Carnaval de Venise and Debussy's Syrinx. and in Mozart's Concerto in C for flute and harp. K 299 (with Lily Laskine, harp.) †

11.57 News. 12.00 Closedown.

Radio 1

News on the town
Hearst's 5:30 a.m. 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30.
Sports Desk 1:05 p.m. 2:02, 3:02, 4:02, 5:05, 6:02, 6:45, 7:05, 9:55
4:00 p.m. Jerry D. Young plays *Moore's*.
8:05 Ken Bruce 11:30 *Jimmy Young*
 Plus musical questions answered by Dr. Mike Smith. 1:35 David Jacobs 2:00 John G. Thompson 2:30 Music all the Way 4:00 David Hamilton 6:00 John Dunn 8:00 Hubert Rogers says 'Call it a Day' 9:00 *My Sister Sam* 9:55 Sports Desk 10:00 *Cinema Scrapbook*: 1950 Introduced by Chris Kelly
 Includes extracts from "The Man's Don't Give Up the Ship" and "Music, and Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines" 10:30 *Brain of Sport* 11:00 *Brain of Sport* 11:30 *Brain of Sport* 12:00 Hobson, Philip Kingsley, and Colin Ritchie 1, 11:00 *Brain of Sport* presents *Brain of Sport* 12:00 *Brain of Sport* 12:30 *Brain of Sport* 12:55 *Brain of Sport* 1:00 *Brain of Sport* 1:30 *Brain of Sport* 1:55 *Brain of Sport* 2:00 *Brain of Sport* 2:30 *Brain of Sport* 2:55 *Brain of Sport* 3:00 *Brain of Sport* 3:30 *Brain of Sport* 3:55 *Brain of Sport* 4:00 *Brain of Sport* 4:30 *Brain of Sport* 4:55 *Brain of Sport* 5:00 *Brain of Sport* 5:30 *Brain of Sport* 5:55 *Brain of Sport* 6:00 *Brain of Sport* 6:30 *Brain of Sport* 6:55 *Brain of Sport* 7:00 *Brain of Sport* 7:30 *Brain of Sport* 7:55 *Brain of Sport* 8:00 *Brain of Sport* 8:30 *Brain of Sport* 8:55 *Brain of Sport* 9:00 *Brain of Sport* 9:30 *Brain of Sport* 9:55 *Brain of Sport* 10:00 *Brain of Sport* 10:30 *Brain of 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Radio 1
 News on the half hour from 6.30 am until
 9.30 pm and at 12 midnight.
 8.00 am Adrian John 7.30 Mike Read
 9.30 Simon Bates 12.30 pm Newsbeat
 (Frank Partridge) 12.45 Gary Davies
 3.00 Steve Wright 5.30 Newsbeat
 (Frank Partridge) 6.45 Paul Jordan At
 6.30, the new Top 40 7.30 Janice Long
 At 9.00, John Walters and his diary
 10.00-12.00 John Peel 1 VHF Radios 1 &
 2: 4.00 am As Radio 2 10.00 pm As
 Radio 1 12.00-4.00am As Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE
6.00 Newdesk 7.00 News 7.09 Twenty-Four
Hours 7.30 Behind the Universe 7.45 Network
UK 8.00 World News 8.08 Reflections 8.15
Development 8.5 8.30 Seathoven and the
Vain 8.50 News 8.59 Review of the British
Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial

News 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 What's New
10.00 News 10.01 Discovery 10.30 Kipps
11.00 World News 11.05 News About Britain
11.15 Waveguide 11.25 A Letter From
Scotland 12.00 Radio Newsfirst 12.15 Richard
III 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.05
Twenty-Four Hours 1.30 Network UK 1.45
Recording Of The Week 2.00 Outlook 2.55
The Sacred Chord 3.00 Radio Newsfirst 3.15 A
Jiffy Good Show 4.00 News 4.15

Commentary 4:15 Omnibus 4:45 The World
 Today 5:00 News 5:00 A Letter From
 Scotland 5:15 Menden 5:00 World News 5:00
 Twenty-Four Hours 5:15 Concert Hall 10:00
 World News 10:00 The World Today 10:25 A
 Letter From Scotland 10:30 Financial News
 10:40 Reflectors 10:45 Sports Roundup
 11:00 News 11:00 Commentary 11:15 News
 Gospel 11:30 Richard III 12:00 News 12:00

News About Britain 12.15 M60 Newsline
12.30 Omnibus 1.00 News 1.01 Outlook 1.30
Report On Religion 1.45 Country Style 2.00
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World Today 3.30 Discovery 4.08 Newsdesk
4.38 Waveguide 4.48 Book Choice 5.45 The
World Today

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BORDER As London except
1.26sec. 1.28 Meyer 1.30

SCOTTISH As London except.
12.30pm-1.00
Gardening Time 1.20 News 3.00-4.00
Sons and Daughters 5.15-5.45

Emmerdale Farm 8.00 News and Scotland Today 8.35 Crossroads 7.00-7.30 Take the High Road 12.40am Late Call Closedown

ANGLIA As London except 12.30pm-1.00 Gardens For All 1.20-1.30 News 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm 6.00 About Anglia 6.35 Crossroads 7.00-7.30 Sunquest

HTV WEST As London except:
12.00pm-1.30 News
6.00 News 6.35-7.00 Crossroads
12.40am Closedown

HTV WALES As HTV West except
9.30am-12.00

Schools 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six

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Lodging benefits face third onslaught

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Government last night launched its third attempt to control spending on board and lodging payments to young unemployed people, and announced a new crackdown on fraud by people who are abusing the existing system.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, laid new regulations before Parliament to replace those withdrawn last month after the joint Lords and Commons committee on statutory instruments had cast doubt on their legality.

Those in turn had replaced regulations introduced last April but ruled illegal by the High Court in July. Government spending on the benefits was about £600 million last year.

The government's appeal against the High Court decision will be heard later this month, but Mr Fowler has decided to press ahead in any case.

The regulations, which will require recipients of board and lodging benefits to move every two, four or eight weeks to continue receiving it, will come into force for new claimants as soon as they are passed by both Houses of Parliament.

But in an attempt to overcome the legal difficulties raised, the discretionary power of the Secretary of State to define board and lodging areas and set limits has been removed, and they are instead spelt out in the regulations. For existing boarders on benefit they will not apply till July 28 next year.

Mr Fowler, announcing the move in the Commons during the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech, also disclosed that the Home Department of Health and Social Security staff would be employed on bringing cases of fraud and abuse to prosecution.

There was evidence of abuse by both claimants and landlords, he said. An investigation in Euston, North London, had shown that about half of those claiming to be residents in particular hotels were no longer there - 600 out of 1,200.

In the dock - leaders who lost Falklands war



The military junta members who led Argentina to defeat in the 1982 Falklands war, Admiral Jorge Anaya (left), General Leopoldo Galtieri and Basilio Lami Dozo, waiting for the final stage of their court martial in Buenos Aires. The prosecution was expected to ask for jail sentences of 10-12 years.

Thatcher predicts growth and renewal

Continued from page 1
recourse to violence. This was why it was right to provide the police and courts with whatever means were necessary to protect society against those who would undermine it.

She named those she had in mind: "The traffickers in drugs who seek to spread their poison; the international terrorists; those who foment racial tension in our cities; and those who exploit real or imagined grievances and turn them into violence."

The Prime Minister repeated a theme she has used before, that money alone was no answer to violence, and the rule

of the mob. These were not evils, bred of a parsimonious Treasury. Their root lay in a breakdown of natural authority, which started in the home and family.

Some parents opted out of their duty to their children, and some teachers ignored the need to educate pupils in the obligations of citizenship. Some neighbours did not want to know. "It is natural authority which we must now seek to strengthen, and that does not lie in the gift of government."

The Prime Minister said that the coming Geneva summit should not be judged solely in terms of whether Mr Reagan

and Mr Gorbachev reached specific agreements to reduce nuclear weapons. That was an important aim, but armaments were not themselves the root cause of international tension.

"There will be no solid foundation on which to build successful arms control agreements if the Soviet Union continues to try to extend its system by force or by subversion."

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said last night that Britain was falling into moral decay and gave a warning that this could lead to anarchy and then tyranny.

Banks launch attempt to resolve tin crisis

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

A group of 35 banks yesterday launched an attempt to resolve the \$800 million tin crisis.

The banks say they will pledge continuing support for their creditor metal dealers and the International Tin Council (ITC) if the ITC's 22 member countries also honour their commitments. Britain has already said it would pay its share.

Dealing around the world was thrown into chaos on October 24 when the ITC, which is supposed to support tin prices, said it had run out of money. The ITC alone owes the banks \$300 million. Tin trading on the London Metal Exchange (LME) was suspended.

The banks met at the Bank of England yesterday and agreed to put their proposals to the ITC. Tin trading is supposed to resume next Monday, and the banks fear that the price could crash. The ITC is due to meet on Thursday.

Commodities review, page 27

City of history faces the modern invader

The woman from Cincinnati had intended a brief stay in York before heading north to Scotland. Five weeks later she was still here taking lunch with her daughter-in-law in Betty's Tea Rooms near the Minster.

"It's just so beautiful," she enthused in that way peculiar to American tourists. "I guess I won't be getting to Scotland this trip and there's just too much to see that I'll be coming back again next year."

Mrs Mary King, although she didn't realise it, is the epitome of a phenomenon that has been labelled the third invasion of York. After the Romans and the Vikings the modern-day invasion by hordes of tourists has become the main issue in the day-to-day lives of the city's 100,000 residents.

To the visitor, the ancient city of York is an open-air museum, its narrow, quaint streets filled year-round with more accents and languages than a Berlitz school. But to those who live there it is still a place they have to work and get in the weekly shopping with increasing difficulty in clogged streets, car parks bulging at the seams and crowded pavements.

So many visitors now throng the city that life for those who have to live and work there can be a frustrating experience.

In 15 years the number of tourists has trebled. This year it is expected that between 2.5 million and 3 million will enter the city walls. It is York's only growth industry, with 7,000 jobs dependent on its success and with more than £42 million a year injected into the local economy. Hardly a family in the city does not have a member whose livelihood depends on the tourists who arrive daily by train, car and coach.

There are new hotels, souvenir shops, restaurants and cafes. In spite of the fire, and some say because of it, York Minster continues to attract about two million visitors a year; a million more head for the National Railway Museum and the Jorvik Viking Centre, where visitors are whisked in "time cars" back to the days of the Vikings, the

old city unearthed by archaeologists beneath Coppergate is one of Europe's fastest growing attractions with more than one million tourists in its first year of operation.

And all this happens in the heart of the city in an area not more than a quarter of a square mile. The problem that faces the authorities is how to manage the annual influx so that visitors and residents can live at least in some degree of harmony.

For six years the council's tourism department has tried to spread the annual influx, promoting York only in the off-season. But despite that the numbers have continued to grow and with some of the developments being decided by residents. Not everyone is in favour of the proposed laser discotheque in the heart of the city.

Mr Jim Crichton, York's director of tourism, readily acknowledges the problem. For some people there are already too many tourists, yet there is a realization, even among those most vociferous in their disapproval, that the annual influx of visitors is now a vital part of the city's economy.

To try to ease the plight of the residents and to maintain its high tourist profile, the city council, under its chief executive Mr John Cairns, is about to embark on one of the most intensive management studies of tourism and its effects undertaken in a British city.

Among its targets are ways of relieving traffic and pedestrian congestion. These will involve introducing twentieth-century technology on to the ancient streets with video surveillance equipment on street corners to direct tourists and the computerized control of traffic.

If it doesn't work there will be problems for tourists and residents alike in the future. Visitors could find themselves turned back on the city approaches and residents may return to a campaign that briefly flourished a few years ago in which they took to wearing label badges which declared: "I am not a tourist. I live here."

Peter Davenport

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Emir of the State of Qatar pays a State Visit to the United Kingdom and arrives at Victoria Station, 12.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of The Rainer Foundation, visits the Fitzgerald Scheme at Wadnam Crescent, London SE23, 3.30.

Princess Anne presents The Design Council's Schools Design Prize at the Conference of British Industry Headquarters, Centre Point, 113 New Oxford St, London WC1, 3.30.

Exhibitions in progress
Signs of apartheid. Aberdeen Art Gallery, Scotland. Aberdeen, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 8, Sun 10 to 4, closed Sat (ends Nov 23).

Expressions of Tranquillity. Centre Point, 113 New Oxford St, London WC1, 3.30.

Middleton, Helen Williams, Jane Hamilton and Sarah Burnett; New Trevellick, The Square, Ellington, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; Tues to Sun 11 to 5, closed Mon.

Watercolours and photographs by David and Andrew Scott-Martin; MacLaurin Art Gallery, Ravello, Park Ave, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (ends Nov 30).

By the gains of industry we promote Art - Birmingham Benefactors 1885 to 1935, City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Dec 29).

Paintings and drawings by Adrian Campbell, Niccol Centre, Brewery Court, Clarendon, Mon to Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 10 to 12.30, closed Sun (ends Nov 21).

Sculpture by Andy Goldsworthy; Paintings by Caroline Bagwell; Contemporary Trends in Glass. Wadsworth, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kirkland, Kendal, Cumbria; Mon to

Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5 (ends Dec 22).

Views of Albion: photographs by Patrick Sutherland; Norwich School of Art Gallery, St George Street, Norwich; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Nov 30).

Peace Sellers V: Five Painters: Vivien Albert, Paul Cough, Freya Purdie, Terry Shave and Laurence Wood; Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, Priestgate, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun (ends Nov 30).

Paintings, collages and etchings by Grace Gardner and Philip Woolley; Flamouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 1 and 2 to 4.30, closed Sat and Sun (ends Nov 22).

The Continuing Tradition - works on a Christian theme by The Brotherhood of Ruralists; Lambays Auction Galleries, Polmaria Walk, The Platt, Wadsworth, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9 to 12, closed Sun (ends Nov 16).

William Suckley, 18th century antiquary; Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, The Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire; Tues to Sat 11 to 1 and 2 to 4, closed Sun and Mon (ends Dec 21).

Fabric collage and embroidery pictures by Christine Strong; Theatre Royal, Royal Parade, Plymouth; Mon to Sat 10 to 10, closed Sun (ends Nov 16).

Recent watercolour paintings by Kenneth Box; Allen Gallery, Church Street, Alton; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (ends Nov 16).

Canadian Holography Now, Nottingham Castle Museum, Mon to Sun 10 to 4.45 (ends Nov 17).

Comet hotline
British Aerospace, Space * and Communications Division, and Halley's Comet Society, with British Telecom, are running a nationwide "Hotline" service of information 24 hours a day, updated weekly, about the comet, which is expected to be easily visible through binoculars by the end of this month.

The numbers are:
London 01-790 3400
Birmingham 021-355 6144
Glasgow 043-6300
Liverpool 051-236 8474
Bristol 0272 279494
Cardiff 0222 399855
Belfast 0232 330505
Manchester 061-246 8061
Leeds 0532 8015.

The pound
Australia \$ 2.18
Belgium F 36.36
Canada C 1.32
Denmark Kr 8.29
France F 6.55
Germany DM 2.36
Hong Kong HK\$ 7.80
Italy L 1.36
Japan Yen 163.60
New Zealand \$ 2.05
Norway Kr 4.76
Portugal Esc 200.48
South Africa R 1.67
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 4.66
Switzerland Fr 2.00
USA \$ 1.06
Yugoslavia D 136.47

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.
Retail Price Index: 376.5.
London: The FT index closed down 10.5 at 1072.0.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending November 8

- 1 Eastenders (Thu/Sun) 18.25m
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) 16.35m
- 3 Eastenders (Tue/Sun) 15.05m
- 4 Last of the Summer Wine 15.30m
- 5 Bargain 14.30
- 6 All About 14.25m
- 7 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 8 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 9 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 10 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m

- 1 Coronation Street (Mon) 18.75m
- 2 Coronation Street (Tue) 18.75m
- 3 Full House 15.05m
- 4 Coronation Street (Wed) 15.05m
- 5 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 6 Emmerdale Farm (Tue) 12.20m
- 7 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 8 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 9 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m
- 10 The Great British Bake Off 14.15m

- 1 Tender at the 10 (Sat) 8.50m
- 2 Tender at the 10 (Sun) 8.50m
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- 8 Tender at the 10 (Tue) 8.50m
- 9 Tender at the 10 (Wed) 8.50m
- 10 Tender at the 10 (Thu) 8.50m

Anniversaries

Births: Richard Baxter, Puritan minister, Rowton, Shropshire, 1615; John William Strutt, 3rd Baron Rayleigh, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1904, Malden, Essex, 1842; San Yatsen, first president of the Republic of China, Hsiang-shan, Kwangtung Province, 1866.

Deaths: Canute II, King of England 1016-15, of Denmark 1019-35, of Norway 1028-35, Shaftesbury, Dorset, 1035; Elizabeth Gaskell, Alton, Hampshire, 1855; Baroness Orczy, novelist, author of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, London 1947.

Best ports
In a blind tasting of 16 ports of the 1975 vintage, the following six were judged outstanding:

Talbot's, Deane & Co, 01-261 1111, which obtained top marks; Quinta do Noval, H & T Walker Ltd, 0732-450717, and branches of Victoria Wine, 012-613, Graham's, Peter Dominic, 0272-26801, or Davison's, 01-681 3112, 012-50-215; Fonseca, Berry Bros & Rudd, 01-930 18888, 012-26814, 011-99; Calem, Wine Growers Association, 01-451 0981, branches of Augustus Barnett or Callaghan Wines, under 014.

Source: *Deviner*, Nov 1985.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (industry and employment).

Lords (2.30): Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (Home and environmental affairs).

Roads
London and South-east A113 at Chiswick Road, Chiswick: gas main contractors near Roadworks Lane. Traffic reduced to single alternate lane between 9.30 am and 4 pm. A20 Road work reduced at Sidcup Road, Sidcup. Right hand lane closed between 9.30 am and 4 pm. A217 Regent Road, Hockwood, Surrey. Near roundabout under construction near roadworks. Traffic reduced to single alternate lane between 9.30 am and 4 pm. A217 Regent Road, Hockwood, Surrey. Near roundabout under construction near roadworks. Traffic reduced to single alternate lane between 9.30 am and 4 pm.

The Midlands: A5 Single line traffic between Gillingham and Ploverton at Stratton (Staffordshire); temporary signals. M6 Contrailow east of Birmingham between junctions 5 (Castle Bromwich) and 4 (Colwall). North and southbound entry slips at junctions 4 and 5 closed at various times. M5 Contrailow on southbound carriageway between junctions 2 (Oxford) and 3 (Quinton). W Midlands: Junction 2 entry slip road closed southbound. M5 Contrailow on southbound carriageway between junctions 25 and 26, Taunton to Wellington, Roadworks, including weekend. A38 Roadworks on Buckleighigh to Plymouth Road, deep lane overbridge (east of Plymouth by pass).

The House: Northbound carriageway closed, contrailow, between junctions 6 (Selby) and 7 (M62), M62 Northbound and contrailow between junctions 32 (A638 Castleford) and 33 (A1). A1 (M) Contrailow on northbound carriageway, repairs to bridge parapets on Don Viaduct, York.

Scotland: A44 Patching at Lismahow, southwards for one mile. Northbound carriageway closed, two-way traffic on southbound carriageway. A84 Single line traffic in three places between Strathely and end of Loch Lubnaig.

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Weather forecast

A deep depression over the Baltic will drift slowly away E while a strong ridge of high pressure builds over the British Isles.

6am to midnight
London, Central S, Central N England, Midlands: Mainly dry with bright or sunny intervals; wind northwesterly; light max temp 8C (46F).

SE, E NE England, E Anglia, Borders: Windy showers, near east coast, otherwise dry with bright or sunny intervals; wind NW light or moderate, locally fresh; max temp 8C (46F).

Channel Isles, SW, NW, England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Bright or sunny intervals, isolated showers drying out; wind northerly, light max temp 8C (46F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Bright or sunny intervals and windy showers; wind northwesterly, moderate or fresh, decreasing light; max temp 2 to 4C (36 to 39F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, M Inland: Bright or sunny intervals, isolated showers drying out; wind northerly, light max temp 8C (46F).

Orkney, Shetland: Bright or sunny intervals and windy showers; wind northerly, fresh, decreasing moderate; max temp 3C (37F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Most places will be dry with some bright or sunny intervals. There will be frost at night, and an increasing risk of fog patches, which may be slow to clear particularly on Thursday.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind NW strong decreasing moderate. Showers. Visibility: good. Sea: rough becoming slight. Strait of Dover: NW fresh decreasing light. Malin: fair. Visibility: good. Sea: moderate becoming smooth. English Channel: NW fresh decreasing light. Malin: fair. Visibility: good. Sea: moderate becoming smooth.

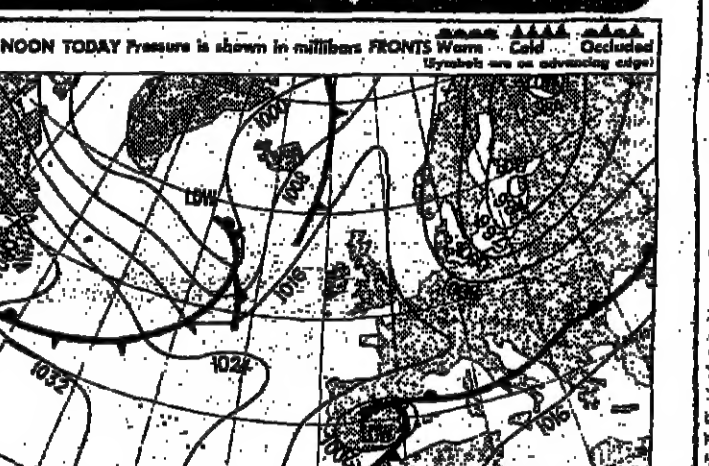
Lighting up time
London 4.45 pm to 6.45 am
Bristol 4.55 pm to 6.55 am
Edinburgh 4.41 pm to 7.15 am
Manchester 4.47 pm to 7.01 am
Penzance 5.12 pm to 7.02 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; b, rain; s, sun; sh, showers; st, storm.

London
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F); wind: S, 10 mph; rain: 2.4 mm; sun: 1.0/12.2; clouds: 25-55.

Highest and lowest
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Newcastle, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Liverpool, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Wick, 0.3mm; lowest sunshine: Clacton, 0.4h.

Our address
Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: Self-Addr. Visions, TTB, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9NF.



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are as on adjoining page.			
London	1012	1012	1012
Aberdeen	1012	1012	1012
Belfast	1012	1012	1012
Birmingham	1012	1012	1012
Bristol	1012	1012	1012
Cardiff	1012	1012	1012
Edinburgh	1012	1012	1012
Glasgow	1012	1012	1012
Leeds	1012	1012	1012